

Hafa Adai!

DYS-Child Protective Services kicks off roadside waving activities. **PAGE 2**
US Coast Guard establishes Marine Safety Unit Saipan. **PAGE 3**

\$1

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By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Yeom: We don't have a deal

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom and the Office of the Attorney General failed to reach a settlement deal with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC during their four-hour discussions yesterday, as the CCC commissioners also did not hold the scheduled de-

liberations whether to revoke or not IPI's exclusive casino license.

After their long settlement talks yesterday afternoon, Yeom told the CCC board that for all intents and purposes, he

See **YEOM** on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom tells the Commonwealth Casino Commission board members that he failed to reach a settlement agreement with Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC after requesting to give him, IPI, and Office of the Attorney General, a total of four hours to pursue settlement talks yesterday.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Marianas High School Dolphin Concert Band pose after their performance in the Tumon Bay Music Festival held in Guam last month.

The Marianas High School Dolphin Concert Band secured the highest honor, the gold award, at the pres-

tigious Tumon Bay Music Festival held in Guam from March 7 to 16.

Composed of high school

musicians from beginning and intermediate levels, the journey to gold was marked by months of rigorous

rehearsals and unwavering determination.

Beyond the stage, the stu-

See **DOLPHIN** on Page 4

Norita says \$200M in invested ARPA funds depleted in 2022

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Department of Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita said on Monday that the \$200 million of American Rescue Plan Act funds was indeed invested in 2021 and depleted in 2022.



Norita

Norita said during a press conference that to address the Senate's concern and inquiry regarding the \$200 million in invested ARPA funds, she would like to finally put this issue to a close.

She said the \$200 million was indeed

See **NORITA** on Page 4

Defense now seeks to disqualify Kingman in Torres contempt suit

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The defense in the ongoing contempt suit filed against former governor Ralph DLG

Torres has recently filed a notice of intent to file a motion to disqualify assistant attorney general James Kingman from prosecuting the case.

See **DEFENSE** on Page 4

INSIDE



LOCAL

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network, in collaboration with the Northern Marianas College's Office of Information Technology, hosted its 2nd Annual Friends of Business Summit last Thursday, April 4, 2024 at the Crowne Resort Plaza Saipan.

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BUSINESS

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is thrilled to announce the launch of Marianas Heritage Week, a weeklong celebration highlighting the rich cultural heritage of the Mariana Islands.

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LIFE & STYLE

Actor Jonathan Majors has been ordered to complete a yearlong counseling program but avoided jail time Monday for assaulting his ex-girlfriend in a high-profile case that derailed the once-promising star's career.

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Local

IN SUPPORT OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION AND AWARENESS MONTH
DYS-Child Protective Services kicks off roadside waving activities

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

In recognition of April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Awareness Month, members of the Division of Youth Services-Child Protective Services under the Department of Community

and Cultural Affairs gathered in front of the Guma Hustisia court in Susupe for a roadside waving last Friday. DYS director Vivian Sablan said the roadside waving had been strategically planned to reach parents and families on their way to drop their children off to school or



CHRYSTAL MARINO

In light of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention month, members of the Division of Youth Services and the Child Protective Services gathered at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe for a roadside waving last Friday.

for those going to work. “This is part of our month-long campaign against child abuse and neglect. We usually have our roadside waving once a month, but we decided to kind of break it apart this time around and do it next to the schools where parents and students are making their way to school. This is just part of our efforts to bring awareness out to the community. Just like our proclamation, we decided to do it a little bit different this year and try and reach out to as much families as we can.”

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention and Awareness Month proclamation ceremony took place last Thursday, April 4, at the Capitol Hill Softball Field and it was followed by the start of the DYS Co-Ed Strikeout Child Abuse Softball Tournament. “We wanted to reach out to the families. Us being able to host a softball tournament that’s like a couple hundred more people to bring awareness to because we have our players. Our players have their fans and



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Doning blue, members of the Division of Youth Services and the Child Protective Services gathered at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe for a roadside waving last Friday.



CHRYSTAL MARINO

Members of the Division of Youth Services and the Child Protective Services show their placards at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe for a roadside waving last Friday.

families that joined us.”


DYS-Child Protection Services’ Mariah Barcinas said the roadside waving and upcoming programs are all to raise awareness and hope-

fully help more children who suffer from abuse. “It symbolizes our commitment and dedication to the well-being and safety of our CNMI children. This month, we have a lot of activities. We have our first-ever child abuse softball tournament, these roadside waving, and also mandated reporter presentations. There’s something for everyone this month, so reach out to us.”


DYS-Child Protection Services plans to continue its roadside waving campaign every Friday from 7:30am to 8:30am. This upcoming Friday’s roadside waving will be at the Guangdong Hardware intersection. The last Friday of this month, April 26, two roadside waving activities will happen concurrently at the Kagman Community Center and the Mobil Sadog Tasi.

“We continue to fight and campaign against child abuse and neglect in the CNMI. Anyone who wants to make a report, please call us. If they want us to come and check them, call us. We’re here for them. That’s what I want them to know. DYS is really here to help. We’re not here to take your kids away. We’re here to provide that support. Just let us know how we can help you,” said Barcinas.

To contact DYS-Child Protection Services, call (670) 237-1005 to 1014 or (670) 285-2780/81. You can also visit their office, from Monday to Friday, 7:30am-4:30pm, on Capitol Hill 12784 Atchu St., House #1354.




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 11925 Pohnpei Court
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Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp




Pursuant to P. L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its quarterly board meeting on **Thursday, April 11, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Administration Building, Governor’s Conference Room, on Capitol Hill, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (11/29/2023)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson’s Report
- VII. Director’s Report
 - A. Financial Report
 - B. Online Payment – Localgov
 - C. Ad Hoc Committee to Review and Update Board Regulations for Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors, and Landscape Architects
- VIII. Investigator’s Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor’s Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor’s Office
 - B. Legislature
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board’s Review
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
 - A. NCARB 2024 Annual Business Meeting – Paid and Voting Delegates
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting




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HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
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Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby give notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on Wednesday, April 10, 2024, **at 8 a.m.** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes (03/13/2024)
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Chairperson’s Report
- VII. Director’s Report
 - 1. Financial Report
- VIII. Investigator’s Report
- IX. Communications from the Governor’s Office & Legislature
 - A. Governor’s Office
 - B. Legislature
 - 1. Letter from EAGI Chairwoman, Senator Celina R. Babauta Re Senate Confirmation Hearing for Dr. Martin Rohringer
- X. Old Business
- XI. New Business
- XII. Pending Applications for Board’s Review
- XIII. Miscellaneous Business
- XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- XV. Announcements
 - A. Next Meeting Date
 - B. Adjournment of Meeting



COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-018

CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE POTABLE WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEMS, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE FOR SAIPAN and ROTA

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply, Delivery, Installation & Maintenance of Calcium Hypochlorite potable water disinfection systems and supply & delivery of calcium hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-IFB-24-018, Calcium Hypochlorite Potable Water Disinfection Systems, Delivery, Installation, and Maintenance and Supply & Delivery of Calcium Hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota**” to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) May 9, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 24, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, CUC Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager, via email address-rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

The U.S. Coast Guard officially established Marine Safety Unit Saipan in a ceremony on Saipan last April 5, 2024.

"This significant achieve-

ment marks a milestone in leadership evolution and responsibility expansion within the Coast Guard, reflecting our steadfast commitment to

Palacios already looking at potential candidates for 2 CCC commissioner posts

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said he is already looking at potential candidates for the two Commonwealth Casino Commission commissioner positions that will be left vacant by the end of the month.

Palacios said in an interview last Wednesday that he doesn't want to be presumptuous, but that he just put names in and see if some of these folks they're looking at are going to be amenable to serving as CCC commissioners under a challenging situation.

The terms of commissioners Ramon M. Dela Cruz of Tinian and Martin Mendiola of Rota will expire by April 30. Both Dela Cruz and Mendiola are among four commissioners serving as judges in a pending case whether to revoke or not the exclusive license of the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

With the term expiration of Dela Cruz and Mendiola, this will leave CCC board vice chair Rafael S. Demapan of Saipan and commissioner Mariano Taitano of Saipan as the remaining judges in the revocation case. Chair Edward C. Deleon Guerrero recused from the case.

Deleon Guerrero disclosed

during the board's monthly meeting last March 28 that Palacios needs to make an appointment so that the new two commissioners would serve beginning May 1, 2024.

Deleon Guerrero said the new commissioners may get a heads up that they will be serving pro bono because there's no money to pay them.

The annual salary of the commissioners is \$65,000. For over a year now, the commissioners have not been paid due to lack of funding because IPI failed to pay the \$3.1-million annual regulatory fee since 2020, or for the past four years.

Palacios said on Wednesday that although there is no funding currently available for the commissioners' salary, he believes that people that he's going to appoint will accept the challenge.

Palacios said a lot of the members of the commissions and boards are basically serving pro bono as they get only \$30 for the four- to six-hour meeting.

"Because if you're in the private sector, or you also have another job somewhere, you know, you're sacrificing [to serve as board members]," he said.



Palacios

Traffic delays along Lower Miha Village

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the general public that its contractor, Hong Ye Construction, is currently mobilizing to commence the construction for the Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement project.

As a result, there will be traffic delays along Lower Miha Village affecting Beach Road, Micro Beach Road, Botones Avenue, Adetfa Street, and Kalachucha Avenue from April 10, 2024, to Nov. 9, 2024.

The purpose of these traffic delays is to allow HYC to replace the existing ACP sewer line and establish a new route for the replacement sewer line. Additionally, this project will involve reconnecting the affected residences.

The construction activity will occur from 7:30am to 4:30pm Monday through Saturday.

There may be adjustments to the work routine due to the tide level, which affects the groundwater level and may

interfere with the construction work. No construction activity will continue after 4:30pm unless work necessitates otherwise.

The Lower Miha Sewer Line Replacement project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to provide a more reliable sewer system. The transition work is part of decommissioning the old sewer line and will be replaced with PVC pipes.

Due to the traffic delays, motorists are advised to reduce speed and exercise caution while driving in the areas or take alternative routes.

CUC apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciates your cooperation in accommodating the traffic delays necessary to complete this critical infrastructure improvement project for our customers. For more information, please contact Customer Service at (670) 664-4282, visit our website, or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates. (PR)

US Coast Guard establishes Marine Safety Unit Saipan

serving the people of Saipan and the CNMI with unparalleled dedication and excellence," said Capt. Nicholas Simmons, commander of U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam and the presiding official for the event.

Furthermore, this initiative aligns with the service's strategic goal of providing junior officers with increased command opportunities, fostering professional growth and leadership development within the ranks.

Prior to becoming MSU Saipan, Lt. Justin Miller and

his team, operating as Marine Safety Detachment Saipan, exemplified their commitment to maritime safety, security, and environmental stewardship through a series of impactful operations and initiatives. Among these, their proactive engagement during a significant maritime activity week, the hosting of innovative industry training days, and the execution of comprehensive safety operations have significantly raised the bar for maritime safety standards in the region.

The establishment of MSU



Assembled leaders of the Northern Mariana Islands stand for the national anthem and CNMI song at a ceremony to formally establish MSU Saipan in Garapan at the American Memorial Park on April 5, 2024.



Lt. Justin Miller, commanding officer of Marine Safety Unit Saipan, stands with U.S. Coast Guard members, friends, and family at a ceremony to formally establish MSU Saipan in Garapan at the American Memorial Park on April 5, 2024.



Lt. Justin Miller, commanding officer of Marine Safety Unit Saipan, takes a selfie with assembled guests at a ceremony to formally establish MSU Saipan in Garapan at the American Memorial Park on April 5, 2024.

Saipan serves as a foundation for advancing leadership skills and professional development opportunities for Coast Guard personnel while bolstering our mission to ensure the safety, security, and environmental protection of the maritime community in the CNMI. This initiative is a testament to the Coast Guard's capability to adapt and effectively manage maritime risks in a complex and evolving operational environment.

"I want to extend my deepest gratitude to all participants of the MSU Saipan establishment ceremony, including distinguished CNMI leaders, local and federal agency partners, and the families of our service members," said Miller, a Tennessee native. "Special recognition is given to USO Guam for their unwavering support of our team and for facilitating a memorable reception event."

This milestone enhances

the service's operational capabilities and strengthens the enduring U.S. Coast Guard bond with the CNMI community, underscoring the Service's collective commitment to maritime excellence and stewardship.

The U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam team focuses on maritime safety, security, and stewardship in Oceania. With a primary presence in Guam and Saipan and over 300 members across Guam and the CNMI, the team maintains a strong U.S. presence in the Micronesia sub-region and adjacent areas, closely tied to local communities. (USCG)



Located at the Armatech Building in Chalan Kanoa across the intersection leading to the U.S. Post Office. For reservations or for more information, call 234-8894, 287-8895 and 488-8898.

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Please Call: 234-8079 | 287-8079

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES • CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB24-BECQ/DEQ-42400063

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 29, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CLASS 'I' VEHICLE FOR BECQ/DEQ, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (<https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/>) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL & COASTAL QUALITY BY APRIL 17, 2024, TO MR. ELI CABRERA VIA EMAIL AT eli.cabrera@becq.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ GERALDINE T. CRUZ
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

IPI, IPI director face possible contempt

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International

(CNMI) LLC and its director Howyo Chi face possible contempt charges for failing to comply with a U.S. Dis-

trict Court for the NMI order mandating the casino investor to secure its personal property while the court-appointed

limited receiver is able to sell them pursuant to an ongoing receivership.

Last Monday, IPI creditor

Joshua Gray, through attorney Aaron Halebua, filed a petition to show cause against IPI and Chi asking that U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona order IPI and its director to show cause why they shouldn't be held in contempt for failing to comply with a court order.

According to the petition, on Oct. 23, 2023, the court issued an order directing IPI to ensure and fund the security of its personal property until it is sold by limited receiver Clear Management and delivered to the buyer.

"Within 14 days of the filing of the inventory list by the receiver, IPI shall file with the court a sworn declaration and supporting evidence demonstrating its compliance with this provision," said the petition.

However, the plaintiff argues that IPI and its management failed to comply with the court's order when it was discovered that liquor had been stolen from the casino.

"IPI did not comply with the court's directive to file such declaration, let alone ensure the security of IPI's personal property. In or around November or December 2023, several bottles of McCallan whiskey

were stolen from the IPI casino in Garapan. Thereafter, IPI neither filed the required declaration nor ensured adequate security. In or around February 2024, after IPI's liquor had been auctioned, 17 bottles of Moutai—an expensive Chinese rice wine—were stolen from the casino. Even then, IPI made no effort to comply with the court's order. Only when plaintiff insisted that IPI finally file such declaration. However, the filed declaration is still inadequate and IPI has refused to supply additional details. In light of IPI's demonstrated disregard for this court's authority, the loss suffered from IPI's failure to comply with the order, and the risk of theft created by IPI's continued failure to comply, plaintiff requests that this court issue an order to show cause," said the memorandum in support of this petition.

Aside from contempt, IPI faces possible sanctions including incarceration of its director, a \$10,000 daily fine, compensation for the stolen liquor, and attorneys' fees accrued from this petition.

Demapan ordered a two-hour recess after the public comments portion of the special meeting was completed.

After two hours, Yeom requested the board to have two more hours to pursue settlement discussion. The board granted the second request.

In requesting for the additional two hours, Yeom said obviously they're trying to work something on this 11th hour.

He said when they thought they had 99% done, but then again discussions heated up and they're always more stuff to clear up to make sure that all parties interests are protected for both parties.

"This is the final act so to speak," Yeom said.

After the second round of settlement discussion, Yeom told the board that within the last 48 to 72 hours, they spent countless nights and mornings, discussing so many different avenues, many different options to see what can be done to rescue or for the betterment of the CNMI economy, and also the continuance of the gaming industry of the CNMI.

He said they were looking out for the revenue generation and possibly to seek out an opportunity to see if IPI can resume the construction of their hotel by securing a construction bond.



Chi

Senate fails to adopt committee report that recommends passage of tobacco tax hike bill

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

The Senate has failed to adopt its committee report that recommends the passage of its version of a House of Representatives bill that aims to increase government revenue by amending the definition of cigarettes to ensure that all tobacco products are properly taxed.

With four senators voting "yes" and four senators voting

"no" to a motion to adopt the report of the Committee on Fiscal Affairs during a session Monday, Senate president Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) announced that the report will not be adopted and it is no longer in existence.

DeLeon Guerrero, Senate vice president Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Sens. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota), and Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) voted for the adop-

tion of the committee report.

Sens. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), Carl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian), and Dennis James Mendiola (R-Rota) voted "no."

Senate floor leader Sen. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan) was absent, but excused from the session.

The Fiscal Affairs Committee chaired by Donald Manglona recommends the passage of

the proposed legislation in the form of House Bill No. 23-7, Senate Substitute 1.

House Bill No. 23-7 was formally introduced by Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan) on Feb. 3, 2023. The legislation proposes to increase the tobacco tax to \$5 from \$3.75.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

NORITA

From page 1

invested by the previous administration in 2021, however, the entire amount was withdrawn and depleted in 2022.

"This was a finding of the fiscal response committee back in 2023. It is old news. However, we'd like to close this issue since it has resurfaced again," said Norita during the press briefing held in the Office of the Governor's conference room.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) recently requested Norita for information on the \$200 million ARPA funds that the pre-

vious administration deposited in a trust account.

DeLeon Guerrero also requested Bank of Guam to provide her with all information relating to the trust account at BOG that was opened by the previous administration with former Department of Finance secretary David DLG. Atalig.

The president said with the current financial condition of the government, it is important to know that funds are available.

Norita said on Monday that the administration continues to manage what ARPA funds they were able to recover.

Norita said those funds are used primarily on critical obligations or things that have al-

ready been obligated and must be paid for.

She said they have also identified costs that they must take care of such as utilities, fuel, and communications.

"Those are critical expenditures," said Norita, adding that they are focusing on recovering 1% of remaining ARPA funds.

She said recovering those funds looks like going after any contracts that maybe canceled.

The secretary said as they recover those funds, they pay outstanding balances and outstanding contracts.

Norita said they are expecting a Federal Emergency Management Agency reim-

bursement.

She said the FEMA reimbursement has been announced already, however, those funds again will be going towards obligated funds.

Norita said the largest obligation that they have for ARPA funds is the Group Health & Life health insurance contract that they have with Aetna Life Insurance Co.

She pointed out that although they are expecting a \$15-million reimbursement from FEMA, those funds are already obligated toward things such as the health insurance plan, which costs \$13 million for this year alone plus arrears that were not paid in the past.

DEFENSE

From page 1

Last Monday, Torres' lawyer Joaquin DLG Torres filed a notice with the Superior Court of intent to file a motion to disqualify Kingman from prosecuting the case claiming significant concerns regarding impartiality.

Specifically, Joaquin Torres states that it is the defense's position that Kingman is working in association with chief solicitor Robert Glass Jr. in the current contempt case (Glass was disqualified in another criminal case against Torres where the contempt charge was dropped).

"In criminal case 22-0050, the Office of the Attorney

General filed charges against Torres, alleging 12 counts of Misconduct in Public Office, one count of theft, and one count of contempt. On Aug. 23, 2022, the court issued a ruling, dismissing the contempt charge without prejudice. In its ruling, the court disqualified chief solicitor Glass from prosecuting Torres for contempt based upon exposure to confidential information in the legislative subpoena," the notice states.

"On March 6, 2023, the Supreme Court granted the Commonwealth's application for pro hac vice admission of Kingman, with Glass, previously disqualified from the contempt charge, serving as his local counsel. Subsequently, Kingman filed, and

later withdrew, a request for leave to amend information to include the previously dismissed charge of contempt. Kingman has now refiled the contempt charge. Our position is that Kingman's decision to work in association with Glass, coupled with his persistence in pursuing a previously dismissed charge, justifies his disqualification," the lawyer added.

The defense argues that Kingman's series of actions, taken in the context of his partnership with a disqualified attorney, raises significant concerns regarding the impartiality and integrity of the judicial process, warranting Kingman's disqualification.

The defense informed the court that they will be filing

their motion to disqualify before April 11, before the preliminary hearing scheduled for April 15.

"It is Torres' preference and recommendation that this motion to disqualify be heard and resolved prior to the commencement of the preliminary hearing to ensure the integrity of the proceedings. Torres anticipates filing his motion and the memorandum of points and authorities on or before April 11, 2024. We respectfully request the court's consideration to schedule this matter at its earliest convenience, in light of the upcoming preliminary hearing," said the defense.

Back in November 2023, Kingman refiled the contempt charge previously dismissed by the court against Torres.

DOLPHIN

From page 1

dents of DCB seized the opportunity to spread joy and harmony within the community. The members orchestrated a lively flash mob at Micronesian Mall and Guam Premier Outlets, captivating unsuspecting audiences with their impromptu performances.

The DCB students also shared their musical gifts with the senior citizens of Guam. Visiting three senior centers in Dededo, Tamuning, and Santa Rita, they brought smiles and melodies to the man'amko, fostering connections and spreading cheer through the universal language of music.

The DCB students remain committed to their mission of

enriching lives through music and inspiring others to embrace the transformative power of artistic expression. Currently, MHS is the only public high school with a full concert band ensemble with woodwinds, brass, and percussion players. This is part of MHS' commitment to provide extended learning opportunities for students in the performing arts.

To showcase their music, the Dolphin Concert Band is preparing for a concert on April 13, with the doors opening at 6pm at the Marianas High School's main cafeteria.

The tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Marianas High School celebrated its 55th anniversary earlier this year since its establishment in 1969. (PR)

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

SBDC ecstatic on turnout for Friends of Business Summit: CyberTech Edition

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network, in collaboration with the Northern Marianas College’s Office of Information Technology, hosted its 2nd Annual Friends of Business Summit last Thursday, April 4, 2024, at the Crowne Resort Plaza Saipan.

The one-day summit gathered over 200 participants in both private and public sectors from across the Marianas, to explore the latest technological advances with the aim to propel leaders in business, education and our central government into the digital age.

In her opening remarks, CNMI SBDC Network director Nadine C. Deleon Guerrero stated, “It’s truly an honor to have you all gathered here today as we embark on a journey into the dynamic world of cybersecurity and technology innovation. The CNMI SBDC is pleased to be at the forefront of this movement. This summit serves as a pivotal platform for sharing insights, fostering collaboration, and exploring the latest advancements in cyber technology. As we delve into discussions, workshops, and presentations, let’s harness our collective expertise to address the challenges and opportunities in this ever-evolving landscape.”

Kicking off the event in the morning general session was a presentation highlighting the need to shore up cybersecurity defense titled “Cybersecurity Defense: Mitigating Risks on the Offense.”

Presented by KRS Cyberworx owner Herman M. Kintol, a local cybersecurity expert, Kintol underscored the need for the CNMI to improve its cybersecurity posture as heightened threats of attacks become more prevalent in the Marianas, signaling the urgent need for better cybersecurity. In this session, participants learned practical and affordable steps to enhance cybersecurity based on recommendations from leading security organizations.

Dr. Annette Pladevega Sablan, project director for the CNMI Statewide Longitudinal Data System of the CNMI Public School System, also shared her experience.

“The summit was a breath of fresh air and the opportunity to learn and network within a community of like-minded tech professionals was truly invigorating. Not only did the summit reinforce the importance of PSS’ cybersecurity awareness trainings in reshaping our organizational culture, but it also challenged our team to think more deeply

ly about using technology as catalysts for innovation, rather than viewing them as merely a means to an end.”

First Hawaiian Bank’s Vickie Izuka, vice president and area manager, introduced their segment “Guardians of Trust: Tackling Fraud and Cybercrime in Financial Services” and was presented by Honolulu, Hawaii’s Joely A. A. Chung, Esq., CAMS, CAFF, vice president and division manager, Operational Risk Division and Jake Harris, AVP and Sales Department manager. This concise yet insightful presentation focused on navigating the complex cyber landscape impacting businesses today, and how to identify and defend against cyber threats, including those employing social engineering tactics, with simple preventative measures.

To connect the CNMI small business community with its newly established CNMI Office of Broadband Policy and Development, initiated by Gov. Arnold I. Palacios through Directive 2023-003, the SBDC highlighted OBPD’s De Faustina Camacho and Krissa Deleon Guerrero. Camacho and Deleon Guerrero shared the office’s comprehensive broadband strategy to promote advanced network services, boost digital literacy, and ensure access and affordability for residents.

Closing off the afternoon general session portion of the event, Northern Marianas College’s Community Development Institute headed

by director Monique Boyer Sablan, shared TestOut, a program introduced in the CNMI to enhance digital literacy among students. Covering topics such as computer fundamentals, internet safety, coding basics, and digital communication, TestOut provides interactive experiences to equip students with skills for navigating the digital landscape. TestOut also supports instructors with teaching aids, auto grading, and analytics for efficient assessment and personalized feedback. Alongside Sablan, was Geraldine B. Sasamoto, program manager III.

Following the morning and afternoon general sessions of the summit, were multiple breakout sessions for attendees to participate in training opportunities.

Breakout Session A was presented by Joshua Cook, owner of Pacific Pact in a presentation titled “Innovate or Die. Utilizing Information Technology to Improve Modern Day Workflow Strategies.” Cook’s presentation covered the complexities of dealing with technological (software) changes in the workplace and the operations of a business. Some topics of discussion were Good vs. Great Project Management, implementation strategies, how to best prepare the team for these changes, understanding organizational structure within an operation, and supporting these upcoming changes.

Breakout Session B, presented by the folks of Xerox

Corp.’s regional office in Honolulu, Hawaii and Las Vegas, Nevada, discussed “Encrypting Documents & Security Solutions-based Technology.” Tiffany Rabacal-Harper, Office Solutions specialist-Hawaii, Guam & Saipan and Josh Widenmann, Xerox IT Services, Las Vegas, Nevada, California, Hawaii, Guam & Saipan took attendees through an experience with Xerox like never before where idea-sharing and best practices leveraging Xerox’s portfolio of hardware, software, services, and connectivity that can benefit the future of workplaces were covered.

Breakout Session C, presented by CEO of TrueBeep, Nathan Benson, covered “Leveraging AI to Grow ROI” a deep dive into the utilization of Artificial Intelligence in a business to increase efficiency and productivity.

Benson presented on actionable ways businesses can use AI to grow their business, and how they can ready themselves for the next big technology wave that will transform the world.

Breakout Session D, the fourth and final breakout session, was presented by AP Solutions’ Perry Inos, Jr., Clayton Izuka, Jesse Deleon Guerrero, and virtual guests Paul Cheng, Francis Felix, Jubal Mabaquiao, and Brixton Gripon. In a session titled “Revolutionizing Business Dynamics: Integrating Comprehensive Technologies and Sustainable Practices into Business Strategy”

AP Solutions presented on synergizing the integration of cutting-edge technology, sustainable practices, media content, and innovative marketing into business strategies. Participants explored how these elements could be woven to drive innovation, enhance security and foster sustainable growth.

And finally, the CyberTech Edition Summit Trade Show from 3pm to 5pm, gathered all participants and members of the public for a dynamic networking opportunity.

Broc Calvo, managing partner of TurnKey Solutions, shared his experience as a featured exhibitor at the summit’s trade show, “As a young private small business in our niche industry, we understand the significance of participating in events like these. Although TurnKey Solutions is extremely active in the community, we don’t always get the opportunity to connect with our customers face-to-face. The trade show allowed for invaluable engagement with fellow business owners and clients. It was truly an honor to be among veteran companies that have paved the way for businesses like ours. We eagerly anticipate future networking opportunities and are excited about the prospect of collaborating with the SBDC.”

Other featured exhibitors at the Trade Show from the private business sector were Angil Designs, AP Solutions, Docomo Pacific, Island Training Solutions, *Marian-*

as Variety, StemifyCNMI, Saipan Computer Services, Super Tech/White Coconut, TurnKey Solutions, TrueBeep, and Xerox Corp. From the banking, financing and, merchant services vendors were Bank of Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, and Non-stop Corp., and from the government and non-profit stakeholders were CNMI Broadband Policy & Development Program, CNMI Department of Labor’s Workforce Investment Agency, Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, the trade show offered an interactive raffle drawing and live entertainment provided by Marianas Got Talent.

Kimberly Camacho, executive director of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, shared her sentiments of the summit, “We extend a warm thank you to the CNMI SBDC team for the invitation to this event. This has helped the Saipan Chamber of Commerce connect with the local community and bolster the business network. At the event, we had the opportunity to showcase our wide range of programs and services, aiming to facilitate growth and prosperity for our future members. We eagerly anticipate future networking events that foster collaboration between the SBDC and the Chamber, as we jointly strive to empower and support small businesses in our region.” (PR)

ANTONIO SAL BORIA
Chairman

JAMES M. MENDOZA
Vice Chairman

HENRY H. SAN NICOLAS
Member

DONALD M. HOFMEIER
Moderator

CHARLENE M. LIZAMA
Executive Director

TINIAN CASINO GAMING
CONTROL COMMISSION

Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission (TCGCC) hereby gives notice that it will hold its Regular Meeting, on Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at the TCGCC Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

a. Call to Order

b. Roll Call

c. Adoption of Agenda

d. Adoption of Minutes

1. March 14, 2024 – Regular Meeting

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. REPORTS

a. Chair's Report

b. Executive Director's Report

IV. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Status Update of Bridge Investment Group/Tinian Diamond Casino

b. ED Recommendation No. 2024-03, CSI Registration Saint Trading Company, Inc.

V. NEW BUSINESS

a. ED Recommendation No. 2024-04

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATIONS

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

IX. ADJOURNMENT

¹ Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to 3 minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Commission may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Tel: (670) 664-2371 | Fax: (670) 664-2408 | Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION TO BID

ITB24-GOV/CIP-42400020

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST, MAY 10, 2024

SAIPAN AGING CENTER RESTROOM RENOVATION

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), are soliciting sealed bids for the *Saipan Aging Center Restroom Renovation* in Chinatown, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **April 10, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/Vbids).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site located in Chinatown, Saipan at **10:00 AM ChST, April 25, 2024**. Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Skalan Yamada at syamada.cip@gmail.com no later than **4:30 PM ChST, May 2, 2024**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than **10:00 AM ChST, May 10, 2024**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **Arnold I. Palacios**
Governor, CNMI

/s/ **Brien Sers Nicholas Jr.**
Acting Director, CNMI Procurement Services

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

NMHC JVA No.	Positions:	Salary	Opening Date	Closing Date
2024-010	CDBG-DR Planning & Support Program Manager (1-Position)	UNGRADED \$50,000.00 to \$60,000.00 Per annum	March 27, 2024	April 11, 2024 4:00 PM

Employment application form, detailed job description, qualification requirements and other information can be accessed at www.nmhcgov.net and www.cnmi-cdbgdrr.com.

Applicants may submit their applications through the following options: Submission at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan; Drop Box located in front of the NMHC Central Office building; the CDBG-DR Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Ladera Building, Chalan Laulau, Beach Road; or email application and documents to officemanager@nmhcgov.net.

All applicants must complete and submit the NMHC Employment Application Form together with required documents that are listed in the Employment Application Package. Failure to provide the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. NMHC and all its properties are drug-free zones; therefore, selected applicant will be subject to pre-employment drug screening.

It is the policy of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) that the merit system will be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by its personnel regulations and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability or place of origin.

For inquiries, please contact Mr. Jacob Muna, Office Manager, at (670) 234-6866/9447 or by email to officemanager@nmhcgov.net. NMHC is a fair housing agency and an equal opportunity provider, lender and employer.

/s/ **JESSE S. PALACIOS**
Corporate Director

Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Berkeley's backtrack on gas ban won't stop the electrification trend

Berkeley's agreement to throw out its first-in-the-nation ban on gas hookups in new buildings after losing a court challenge might seem like a big loss for climate action.

To meet our fossil-fuel reduction goals, after all, we have to stop using natural gas to power furnaces, stoves, water heaters and clothes dryers and switch to electric heat pumps, induction ranges and other zero-emission technology.

But in reality, the East Bay city's recent settlement with the California Restaurant Association is little more than a bump in the road. The transition to all-electric buildings is so well underway that legal obstacles thrown up by the fossil fuel industry and its allies won't be enough to stop it. The market is already moving away from gas appliances in favor of electric models. And state and local leaders still have a lot of other tools at their disposal to accelerate that trend.

Industry data show heat pumps outsold gas-fueled furnaces in the U.S. for the second year in a row in 2023. The popularity of these dual-purpose appliances, which provide both heating and air-conditioning, is only expected to grow in the coming years as more Americans take advantage of generous rebates and tax credits under the federal Inflation Reduction Act.

Perhaps people are waking up to the fact that gas stoves and other fossil-fueled appliances in buildings degrade indoor air quality, are responsible for about 10% of California's greenhouse gas emissions and generate four times as much smog-forming pollution as the state's gas power plants. They may also be responding to the reality that heat pumps and induction stoves are more efficient technology that can make homes more comfortable while saving time and money.

Berkeley's trend-setting 2019 ordinance banned gas piping in new buildings and was followed by dozens of other cities across the state that passed a range of ordinances discouraging gas hookups or encouraging all-electric construction. Last year, the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in favor of the restaurant industry lobbying group, holding that Berkeley's gas ban is preempted by the federal Energy Policy and Conservation Act, which was enacted in 1975 to establish energy efficiency standards for appliances and prohibits state and local governments from setting their own standards. In January, the court denied the city's petition to rehear the case.

Running out of options, Berkeley settled, agreeing to halt enforcement of its ordinance and eventually repeal it. The restaurant industry lobbying group is now urging every city and county in the state that passed a similar ordinance to toss theirs too.

But the impact is not as sweeping as it might seem. Not all local measures to discourage gas piping in new construction are subject to the decision because some weren't copies of Berkeley's ordinance or as prescriptive. And the ruling was narrow enough that there are other options to reach the same goal, including adopting more stringent energy performance standards for buildings and emissions rules for appliances.

See **BERKELEY'S** on Page 7

Florida voters can send an abortion message: The GOP is out of touch

Florida voters will have a chance in November to tell Republicans that the party's repressive and self-serving policies related to reproductive rights are dangerously out of touch.

Last Monday, the Florida Supreme Court—whose majority was appointed by Governor Ron DeSantis—overturned 34 years of precedent that had upheld a provision in the state constitution protecting abortion rights. The ruling not only enabled a six-week abortion ban to take effect, it also closed the door to abortion access for the 17 million women of reproductive age who live in southeastern states where the procedure is banned and who rely on Florida as their closest option.

However, in a separate ruling, the court also said voters will be allowed to decide whether to restore abortion access in the state. Justices authorized a November ballot question on a proposed constitutional amendment that would guarantee the right to an abortion before fetal viability (about 24 weeks under Florida law).

Florida voters have always been more independent-minded than the elected Republicans that control the state, and they are poised to not only restore abortion rights but do it with help from Republican voters—including many who will support Donald Trump.

Voters in the red states of Ohio, Kentucky, and Kansas have done the same—electing conservative Republicans while also protecting abortion rights. In Kansas, voters overwhelmingly rejected a measure to restrict abortion rights. In Kentucky voters rejected a ballot measure that would have denied constitutional protections for abortion while also handing Senator Rand Paul a decisive reelection victory. And in Ohio, 57% of the voters supported an amendment declaring an individual's right to "make and carry out one's own reproductive decisions."

But these ticket-splitters should also step back and ask some serious questions about how well their interests are being represented by the conservative Republicans who are enacting these backward policies and trying to control women's bodies.

DeSantis and others like him represent an extremist faction of the Republican Party. The governor signed a 15-week abortion ban into law in his first term, but strategically waited to sign a six-week ban until after he was reelected to his second term. He knew a six-week ban was unpopular with a majority of Floridians. Despite that, he and the Republican-led legislature passed it to serve their own goal: to appeal to hard-right conservatives in a primary against Trump.

DeSantis also appointed justices to the Supreme Court whose qualifications were thin, but whose personal histories or involvement with antiabortion efforts meant they were guaranteed to support his agenda. Justice Jamie Grosshans, who authored the majority opinion for this week's landmark decision, provided legal work for Operation Outcry in Orlando, an organization that intervenes when young women seek abortions, according to a now-deleted web page.

By **MARY ELLEN KLAS**
Bloomberg Opinion

Mary Ellen Klas is a politics and policy columnist for Bloomberg Opinion. A former capital bureau chief for the Miami Herald, she has covered politics and government for more than three decades.



The Republican Party continues to try and return America to an era of patriarchy, with advisers like those working with DeSantis calling career-oriented women "meddlesome and quarrelsome." The party's platform states that "the unborn child has a fundamental right to life which cannot be infringed."

Florida voters know better. They have a long history of demonstrating they don't trust politicians to regulate things they really care about. While electing increasingly conservative Republicans to statewide offices, Florida voters also approved measures to raise the state's minimum wage, authorize medical marijuana sales, impose redistricting rules, restore felons' voting rights, expand land and water preservation, and ban offshore oil drilling.

With polls showing at least 62% of Florida voters support the proposed amendment to protect abortion rights, including 53% of Republicans, it's very likely they will do so again.

Shortly after the court ruling, President Joe Biden's reelection campaign issued a memo suggesting that because of the abortion issue, they now consider Florida "winnable." The campaign released an ad in Florida and several swing states Tuesday reminding voters that Trump brags about his role in overturning Roe v. Wade.

It's hard to imagine that even with abortion on the ballot that Biden could overcome the 850,000 Republican voter-registration advantage in Florida. But it certainly allows Democrats to organize around the issue, keep Trump on the defensive and force Republicans up and down the ballot to answer to voters who want an end to restrictive policies on reproductive rights.

Chief Justice Carlos Muñoz, a DeSantis appointee and solidly conservative jurist, summed things up nicely when he slapped down the ridiculous arguments from the Florida attorney general who said the abortion amendment was too confusing to go before voters.

"It's pretty obvious that this is an aggressive, comprehensive approach to dealing with this issue," Muñoz said during oral arguments in February. "The people of Florida aren't stupid. They can figure out what this says."

Muñoz is right. They should figure it out and send a message that they want moderation.

ISIS attacks show the war on terror is heating up

Are we back to fighting the Global War on Terror? The attack in a Moscow concert hall that killed 144 people last month should be a wake-up call to the whole world, especially with the Olympics coming this summer in Paris. It is thought that four members of ISIS-K, an Afghanistan-based branch of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, were able to conduct the bombing despite U.S. and Iranian intelligence warnings provided to Russian security services.

This came on the heels of bombings in Iran in January killing nearly 100 people, for which ISIS also claimed responsibility, and other assaults this year in Afghanistan, Pakistan and across Africa.

For a decade, the Islamic State conducted brazen attacks throughout the Middle East and Europe, and inspired sympathizers to try to do so in the U.S. ISIS troops were able to gain control of a huge swath of territory throughout Syria and Iraq, peaking in 2015 with control of millions of people and fielding tens of thousands of well-trained fighters. Ultimately, the need to stabilize the Iraqi government, along with gruesome videos of ISIS forces beheading western hostages and burning alive a captured Jordanian pilot, galvanized an international effort to destroy the group.

A global coalition of over 70 nations led by the U.S. first pushed them from the outskirts of Baghdad. By 2019, the coalition had wrested control of nearly all the territory ISIS controlled and killed its leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. But the loss of terrain did not stamp out terrorists' ability to conduct deadly operations. Like a forest fire that has been largely contained, there is always the danger of a reflash from the embers still on the ground.

How dangerous is today's Islamic State, and what can we do to fully defeat it?

The first step is obvious: We need to realize that the threat is far from over. ISIS is a dedicated, religiously motivated organization full of zealots that will continue to find support from disaffected and radicalized portions of the world. The terrorists will gravitate toward ungoverned and weakly governed places such as Afghanistan, the

grey zone between Iraq and Syria, the southern islands of the Philippines, and sub-Saharan Africa.

Unfortunately, there are rich targets around the world, despite two decades of improvements in homeland security following the 9/11 attacks. In addition to large public venues as in the Moscow attack, there are concerns ISIS could focus on cruise liners, holiday markets in major cities, college graduation ceremonies and humanitarian operations (the floating pier being built by the U.S. to bring relief to beleaguered Gaza needs to be well guarded). The French government, recognizing the potential vulnerabilities, just put out a request for thousands of police officers from more than 45 nations that are sending sports teams to the summer Olympics.

Another key part of a U.S. strategy to defeat ISIS will be working with allies, partners and friends. The existing intelligence networks involving NATO allies in Europe and treaty allies in the Pacific (Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand and others) provide shared levels of information on Islamic State activities. Beyond our alliance systems, strong partners who could be attacked—including Israel, Colombia, Singapore, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Oman and Bahrain—will be willing to work more tightly with us against ISIS.

The paradox is that international sharing of intelligence will have to include partnering, at times, with nations that are adversaries in other contexts. When I was NATO's supreme commander, I had serious and productive talks with senior Russian officials—including the head of their armed forces—about cooperating on counterterrorism. Other nations with whom we have deep disagreements, including Afghanistan under the Taliban, have serious motivation for working with the West in defeating organized terrorists.

We should carefully and prudently find ways to share some intelligence and foil Islamic State plots directed against civilians in such countries. The U.S. tried to warn Russia last month, but tensions over the war in Ukraine no doubt led to mistrust in Moscow.

We also need to improve interagency cooperation in Washington.

By **JAMES STAVRIDIS**
Bloomberg Opinion



James Stavridis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a retired U.S. Navy admiral, former supreme allied commander of NATO, and dean emeritus of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Stavridis is also vice chairman of global affairs at the Carlyle Group. He is on the boards of Fortinet, NFP, Ankura Consulting Group and Neuberger Berman, and has advised Shield Capital, a firm that invests in the cybersecurity sector.

While sharing has vastly improved since 9/11, there are still gaps and seams between agencies, cabinet offices, Congress and the White House. We need a standing interagency task force to refocus attention on the Islamic State and its branches and allies, working alongside the National Counterterrorism Center. We've had such initiatives before, but given the returned emphasis on great-power competition with China and Russia, they have received less support, attention and talent.

Finally, ISIS will continue to proselytize, recruit, train and organize over social networks. Last week, retired U.S. General Frank Mackenzie, a former leader of U.S. Central Command—which has principal responsibility for combatting the Islamic State on the ground—warned of increasingly dangerous recruiting inside the U.S. Even as ISIS lost physical territory, its leaders rapidly improved their internet prowess—from criminal online funding schemes to elaborate websites designed to attract new recruits.

We have work to do in strategic communication and online engagement. We need to reenergize counter-ISIS propaganda on the internet, and have our cyberwarriors take down their websites and direct traffic to our counterprogramming. Likewise, our cyber efforts have to be capable of defeating their offensive cyber activities and foiling their online money networks.

Heightened awareness of a still-existent threat; better cooperation with allies, partners, friends and even adversaries; tightened interagency vigilance; and more effective strategic communication and cyber-defenses will all be key to defeating a resurgent Islamic State. Let's get all this in place before the juiciest target of all—the Paris Olympics—begin in July.

TikTok ban is Congress' latest moral panic

We are living in the age of moral panic. We look around, we see a problem, and we rush to outlaw something. Ban TikTok! cry members of Congress. Ban social media for kids! says the state of Florida. Ban immigrants, ban hate speech, ban imports, ban union shops.

Part of what makes a moral panic a moral panic is that fear overwhelms any effort at moderation. Politicians follow the panic. And throughout the nation's history, an awful lot of moral panics have involved foreigners. Today's cases in point: The right's view on immigration and the left's on Russian election interference.

Back in the 1960s, the economist George Stigler famously wrote that passing a law does not solve a problem. He was arguing against government tendency to impose regulation without sufficient evidence—a process, wrote the future Nobel laureate, that tends to result in rules that are “capricious and arbitrary in high degree.”

In the proposed TikTok ban, we see both aspects of the problem: a lack of evidence and an arbitrary result. But that's nothing new. Laws resulting from moral panics generally fit that model. And, once adopted, they're tough to get off the books.

Consider a few examples.

Why are there tight limits to this day on foreign ownership of domestic US air carriers? Blame a moral panic of the past. In the 1920s, Congress voted the first restrictions after General Mason Patrick of the US Army Air Service testified that the nation needed its own civilian aircraft in case they ever had to be called into service. (That was also, said Patrick, the only way to train the pilots we'd need if there was another war.) Later, in the Cold War atmosphere of the 1950s, national security experts issued ominous warnings of the consequences should adversaries have the freedom of American skies. The restrictions were tightened.

Or consider the rules prohibiting issuance of licenses to build nuclear power plants (or perform several other nuclear-related functions) to entities “owned, controlled, or dominated” by foreigners. The source is the same: moral panic. Ironically, the 1946 Atomic Energy Act, passed in the optimistic wake of World War II, placed few limits on foreign investment. The Senate report on the bill conceded that there was no effective way to keep nuclear knowledge from other nations, because the “book of nature” was available to all.

Then came the Cold War. After the Soviet Union successfully tested an atomic bomb in 1949, the US was seized by fear of what the Reds would do next. In 1954, Congress extensively amended the 1946 statute. The new law did more than just ban foreign ownership. A license also could not be granted to any US citizen “deemed to be undesirable from the national security viewpoint.”

The same panic had allowed, in 1950, the passage of a law giv-

By **STEPHEN L. CARTER**
Bloomberg Opinion



Stephen L. Carter is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist, a professor of law at Yale University and author of “Invisible: The Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America’s Most Powerful Mobster.”

ing the heads of certain federal departments almost total authority to suspend or fire employees “when deemed necessary in the interest of national security.” In practice, the “deeming” was often by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which was not required to provide the evidence on which its judgment rested. Moral panic indeed. Of all these laws, only this last has been substantially weakened—the U.S. Supreme Court eventually narrowed the scope of the ability to fire those deemed security risks through an interpretation of the statute.

To be sure, not every moral panic about foreign influence results in lasting legal damage. Consider the temperance movement. As George Fisher of Stanford Law School details in his fascinating new book “Beware Euphoria,” the 19th-century temperance movement was deeply nativist, imbued with a sense that non-Protestant immigrants brought with them the corrupting influence of over-indulgence in alcohol. World War I gave the drive for prohibition further impetus, because drinking was seen as so ... well ... German. But of course, the 18th Amendment has been repealed.

The war on drugs, however, is another story. Today, despite widespread fears of Mexican fentanyl, the data show that 89% of traffickers are US citizens. But fears of foreign drugs are longstanding. A single example from Fisher's book: One argument pressed against opium was the belief that the Chinese had brought it to our shores.

All of which brings us back to TikTok.

According to news reports, we've reached the point where legislators who'll be voting on whether to ban the platform are being opposed by their own children. Young folks love it. But tomorrow they may love something else. Social media may be here to stay, but which platforms are popular is a matter of fashion. They have predictable life cycles. Whether or not the ban passes, within two or three years, a new platform will be the favorite.

That's another problem with moral panics: The loudest voices are all too often the ones fighting yesterday's war. But to borrow from Isaac Asimov, anybody can see the crisis once it arrives. The real service to the state is to detect it in embryo.

BERKELEY'S

From page 6

Some cities, such as San Luis Obispo, stopped enforcing their gas bans and all-electric building codes after last year's ruling and are pivoting to measures that encourage electrification using energy efficiency standards. Cities and counties across the state can copy that approach and pass “fuel neutral” ordinances, which require buildings to meet tougher performance standards regardless of whether they use natural gas or electricity. Those standards will be easier to meet with electric heat pumps and induction stoves because they are up to three times more efficient than their gas-fueled counterparts.






Berkeley, too, should be able to craft a new ordinance that passes legal muster and advances its goal of becoming a fossil fuel-free city. While city officials have been circumspect given the ongoing case, Mayor Jesse Arreguin said in a statement to the editorial board that “the ruling leaves open many policymaking avenues for Berkeley to address environmental and public health hazards within its borders.”

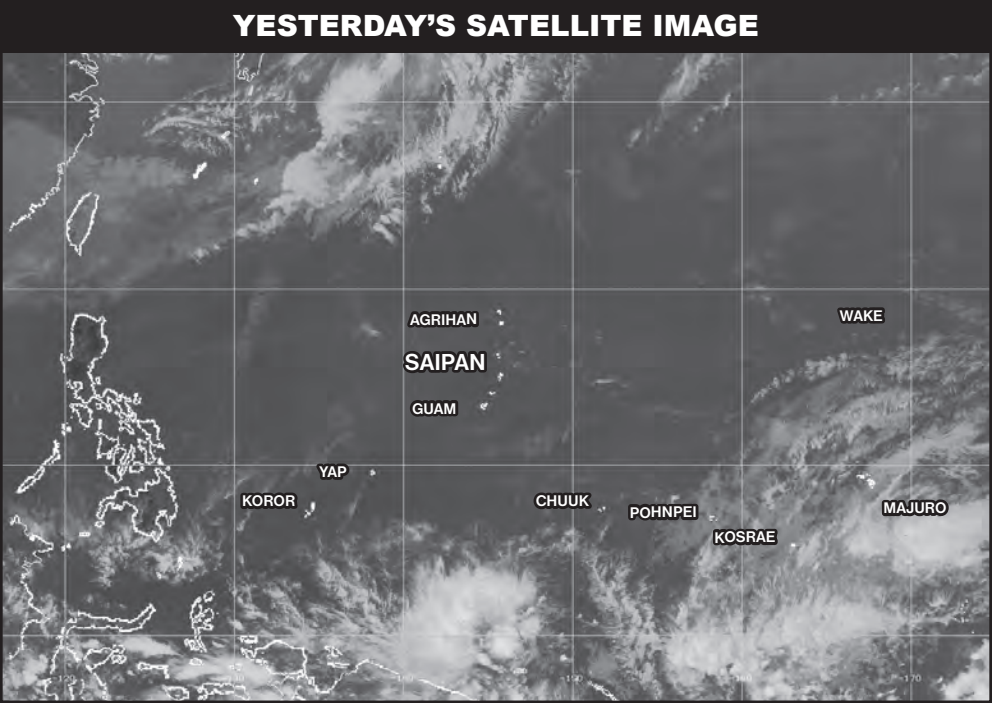
It's not surprising that industries whose business models are threatened by the move away from natural gas have pushed back against efforts to limit natural gas hookups in California. About three-quarters of California homes use gas for heating and cooking that is piped in with extensive infrastructure that for decades was advantaged through official policy, including incentives for builders to expand the natural gas system. But California building codes no longer favor natural gas, and regulators last year eliminated the last remaining subsidies for new construction using gas infrastructure.

And a few days ago the California Energy Commission released a proposal to set tougher energy efficiency standards starting in 2026. They will result in the vast majority of new construction being equipped with electric heat pumps, experts say, that will most easily meet the requirements for space and water heating.

With more progress than setbacks, it's clear that gas appliances are on the way out in California one way or another. For the sake of pollution-plagued communities and future generations' right to a safe climate, state and local officials should do all they can to make it happen quickly.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
									
Partly sunny with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly sunny with scattered showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	
85°	77°	85°	76°	86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 8:01 AM TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows mostly sunny skies with almost no showers in the Marianas Waters. Wave Model data shows combined seas of 6 to 9 feet, composed mainly of east-northeast trade-wind swell with some wind waves and a small, more northerly swell starting tonight.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°	
Yap	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	89° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	89° / 80°	
Kosrae	Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 79°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:06 AM	6:30 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:30 PM
Friday	6:04 AM	6:30 PM
Saturday	6:04 AM	6:31 PM
Sunday	6:03 AM	6:31 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:58 AM	8:03 PM	-
Thursday	7:46 AM	9:05 PM	-
Friday	8:37 AM	10:08 PM	-
Saturday	9:32 AM	11:09 PM	-
Sunday	10:29 AM	-	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	68° / 57°	
Beijing	Fair	71° / 48°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°	
London	Partly Cloudy	75° / 52°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	66° / 51°	
Manila	Fair	95° / 78°	
Melbourne	Showers	57° / 52°	
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 71°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	64° / 42°	
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 55°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	77° / 54°	
Busan	Fair	67° / 54°	
Rome	Sunny	72° / 46°	
Salem	Partly Cloudy	69° / 43°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	58° / 49°	
Seoul	Sunny	73° / 50°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	71° / 54°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	71° / 44°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:38 AM	Low Tide	0.67	
8:09 AM	High Tide	2.07	
3:04 PM	Low Tide	-0.16	
9:35 PM	High Tide	2.03	

NEWS DESK

For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5	UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Crowne Plaza celebrates the Marianas with Heritage Week

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is thrilled to announce the launch of Marianas Heritage Week, a weeklong celebration highlighting the rich cultural heritage of the Mariana Islands. From April 8 to 14, all are invited to join in the festivities and experience a variety of cultural activities, culinary delights, and live entertainment.

Step into a resort-wide celebration of heritage:

The Terrace

Indulge your taste buds in local flavors and cuisines with our local-themed lunch buffet, served Monday through Saturday from 11am to 2pm. Locals can enjoy their meal at \$40 per adult and \$20 per child with a 25% discount.

On Sunday, take your brunch experience to a new level with a local-themed spread from 11am to 2pm. Enjoy dishes like fried parrot fish, local style tempura, roast pig and more. Feast on a variety of options at the kelaguen station, and end with dessert like lantiyas, apigigi and more. At only \$65 per adult and \$25 per child, enjoy this full spread and free-flowing beverages with a 15% discount.

Mari Bar

Elevate your evening with handcrafted cocktails inspired by the island's vibrant spirit. Sip on refreshing concoctions like the Setbesa Special and Niyok Lychee, available through the week, while engaging in lively discussions with our special guest speakers:

■ April 8 at 5:30pm: Dive deep into maritime heritage with Jun Coleman, executive director of 500 Sails.

■ April 9 at 5:30 pm: Uncover the fascinating history of the Northern Mariana Islands with professor William J. Fife III and student Mark Terlaje-Pangelinan Jr.



CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

Take your brunch experience to a new level with a local-themed spread from 11am to 2pm at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Sunday brunch at The Terrace.



CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan's Ataari Dinner Show dancers.

■ Live entertainment to follow on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

Market Place

Start your day with a burst of local flavor! Enjoy a complimentary treat of either apigigi

or guyuria with every coffee purchase, daily from 7am to 10am.

Daily lobby performances and activities

■ Monday, April 8: Kick

off the week with a mesmerizing pre-show performance by Ataari Dinner Show at 5:30pm and an engaging talk with Jun Coleman at 5:30pm.

■ Tuesday, April 9: Immerse yourself in local artistry with a live showcase by

CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN
Mari Bar's Setbesa Special.CROWNE PLAZA RESORT SAIPAN
Mari Bar's Niyok Lychee.

Ace Elameto from 4pm to 5:30pm, then delve into the rich history of the NMI with professor William J. Fife III and Mark Terlaje-Pangelinan Jr. at 5:30pm.

■ Wednesday, April 10: Experience the thrill of traditional canoe rides with 500 Sails from 10am to 1pm, followed by another captivating pre-show performance by Ataari Dinner Show at 5:30pm.

■ Thursday, April 11: Let the rhythm move you with an exhilarating performance by the Dematsuri Group at 5pm.

■ Friday, April 12: Dive into island traditions with more canoe rides by 500 Sails from 10am to 1pm, then satisfy your sweet tooth with a coconut and entertaining pre-

show performance by Ataari Dinner Show at 5:30pm.

Join us at Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan for an unforgettable celebration of the vibrant heritage and culture of the Marianas.

For reservations and inquiries, please email restaurants.cprsaipan@ihg.com or call at (670) 234-6412. For more information and updates, follow us on social media, Instagram and Facebook @crowneplazaresortsaipan.

Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan is a 422-room hotel located in Garapan. Guests will be greeted by the resort's lush tropical gardens and panoramic view of Micro Beach, with Crowne Plaza's warm and friendly hospitality ensuring a seamless arrival. (PR)

Biden to meet with Japan PM Kishida amid shared concerns about China, differences on US Steel deal

WASHINGTON (AP)—Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida begins a much-anticipated visit to Washington on Tuesday aiming to spotlight shared concerns about provocative Chinese military action in the Pacific and at a rare moment of public difference between the two nations over a Japanese company's plan to buy an iconic U.S. company.

Kishida and his wife will stop by the White House Tuesday evening ahead of Wednesday's official visit and formal state dinner as President Joe Biden looks to celebrate a decades-long ally he sees as the cornerstone of his Indo-Pacific policy. Kishida will be the fifth world leader honored by Biden with a state dinner since he took office in 2021.

Ahead of the White House visit, Kishida is set to visit Arlington National Cemetery and stop by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Tuesday. Biden and Kishida on Wednesday will hold talks and take part in a joint news conference before Biden fetes the Japanese leader with the state dinner in

the East Room.

The prime minister has also been invited to address a joint meeting of Congress on Thursday. He will be just the second Japanese leader to address the body; Shinzo Abe gave a speech to Congress in 2015.

The visit comes after Biden announced last month that he opposes the planned sale of Pittsburgh-based U.S. Steel to Nippon Steel of Japan, exposing a marked rift in the partnership at the very moment the two leaders aim to reinforce it. Biden argued in announcing his opposition that the U.S. needs to "maintain strong American steel companies powered by American steelworkers."

Ambassador Rahm Emanuel, Biden's envoy to Tokyo, sought Monday to downplay the impact of Biden's opposition to the U.S. Steel acquisition to the relationship. Emanuel noted that in February the Biden administration approved a plan that would drive billions of dollars in revenue to a U.S.-based subsidiary of the Japanese company Mitsui for crane production in the United States.

Disney allowed to pause federal lawsuit vs. Florida governor as part of settlement deal

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—An appellate court on Monday granted Disney's request for a two-month pause in a federal lawsuit against Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and his appointees to Walt Disney World's governing district after the two sides reached a settlement on separate litigation in state court.

Disney's request last Friday to the federal appellate court was motivated by last month's settlement deal involving two Florida lawsuits between Disney and the DeSantis-appointed Central Florida Tourism Oversight District. After DeSantis took over the theme

park's governing board, the company and the district began fighting in state court over how Disney World will be developed in the future.

As part of the settlement, Disney agreed to pause the separate federal lawsuit, which is being appealed, pending negotiations on a new development agreement with the DeSantis appointees. The district provides municipal services such as firefighting, planning and mosquito control, among other things, and was controlled by Disney supporters for most of its five decades until the DeSantis appointees took it over last year.

Disney had a deadline of next week to file an opening brief in its appeal to the federal Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, but that deadline is now set for mid-June.

The settlement deal halted almost two years of litigation that was sparked by DeSantis' takeover of the district from Disney supporters following the company's opposition to Florida's so-called Don't Say Gay law.

The 2022 law banned classroom lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in early grades and was championed by the Republican governor, who used Disney

as a punching bag in speeches while running for president earlier this year. He has since dropped out of the race.

As punishment for Disney's opposition to the controversial law, DeSantis took over the governing district through legislation passed by the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature and appointed a new board of supervisors. Disney sued DeSantis and his appointees, claiming the company's free speech rights were violated for speaking out against the legislation. A federal judge dismissed that lawsuit in January, but Disney appealed.

In Celebration of His New Life

† PEDRO “PADUNA”
ROGOLIFOI DELEON GUERRERO

Born to life November 03, 1943 • Called to his creator on
Monday, April 01, 2024, at the age of 80

In Memory of our Beloved Father, Grandfather, Great-Grandfather, Brother, and Uncle

In his new life, he joins his:

- First Wife: †Pilar Manglona Deleon Guerrero
Son: †Glenn M. Deleon Guerrero
Parents: †Juan G. Deleon Guerrero
‡Guadalupe R. Deleon Guerrero
Brothers: †Herman R. Deleon Guerrero
‡Antonio R. Leon Guerrero
Brothers-in-Law: †Dr. Michael L. Kenney, †Marcus Q. Taisacan
Sister-in-Law: †Lucy Marina P. Deleon Guerrero

His memory will live in the hearts of his:

- Wife: Rowena Relado Deleon Guerrero
- Children: Peter M. Deleon Guerrero (Nicole D. & Aaron Pamintuan;
Shane D. Deleon Guerrero; Niomi D. Deleon
Guerrero & Patrick Tenorio (Leighton & Bryce);
Naleina C. Deleon Guerrero)
- Arlene DLG. & John Carbullido (Natasha C. & Edwin Aponte
(EJ & Xander) and Justin DLG. Carbullido & Kahllyah Sanchez (Jeziah Jay)
- Elizabeth Angela DLG. & Ivan Ichiro (Darrel DLG. & Sunshine Salas;
(Kayli Ari Salas, Kaycee Ava Salas, Kaven Avery Salas); Brian Agustine Salas;
Jaclynn DLG. & Craig Salas (Garred Salas); Lynette Jolyn DLG. Ichiro;
Laila Philomina DLG. Ichiro; Ivan Jr. Tetsuo DLG. Ichiro)
- †Glenn M. Deleon Guerero & Dolly Jean Tkel (Latrel T. Deleon Guerrero,
Sohayla T. Deleon Guerrero, Aisha T. Deleon Guerrero, & Lorenzo Glenn T. Deleon Guerrero)
- John M. Deleon Guerrero
- Rainier R. & Chayanne Deleon Guerrero (Rainelle Richards & Larry George Richards)
- Lawrence R. Deleon Guerrero (Logan Bryce P. Deleon Guerrero &
Lyle Vicente S. Deleon Guerrero)
- Sisters: Maria Consolacion (Connie) G. Kenney (Melia Ki'ilani, Dawn Chrystal)
Diana Faisao-Taisacan (Jason, Marcus, Jacob, Jerome, Diana Lynn)
- Sister-in-Law: Priscilla Aguon Leon Guerrero
- Children of Herman R. Deleon Guerrero:
Frederick P. Deleon Guerrero, Christine DLG. Untalan, Elizabeth Angela P. Ichiro, & Marina P. Deleon Guerrero
- Children of Antonio R. Leon Guerrero:
Marilu LG. Perez, Anthony C. Leon Guerrero, Alan C. Leon Guerrero, Jesse C.
Leon Guerrero, Francisco San Augustin, MaryMae SA. Rosal, Joseph San Augustin

Paduna will also continue to live in the hearts and thoughts of numerous Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, Godchildren, and Cherished Friends.

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, his remains will be escorted from the Borja Funeral Home to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:45 am. Responso, Holy Rosary, and Viewing will follow upon arrival at the church. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 am followed by the Rite of Committal at the Tanapag Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Un Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Ghillisow, Salamat Po, & Thank You from the bottom of our hearts.

The Family

Life & Style

Jonathan Majors avoids jail time for assaulting his ex-girlfriend

NEW YORK (AP)—Actor Jonathan Majors has been ordered to complete a year-long counseling program but avoided jail time Monday for assaulting his ex-girlfriend in a high-profile case that derailed the once-promising star’s career.

The 34-year-old star of “Creed III” and other films had faced up to a year behind bars after he was convicted of misdemeanor assault by a Manhattan jury in December.

In court Monday, Judge Michael Gaffey sentenced Majors to conditional discharge after noting that both sides in the case agreed the charges did not warrant jail time, given the actor was a first time offender with no prior criminal record.

He said Majors must complete a 52-week, in-person batterer’s intervention program in Los Angeles, where the actor



Actor Jonathan Majors leaves Criminal Court with his girlfriend Megan Good after his sentencing in Manhattan on Monday April 8, 2024 in New York.

lives. He also has to continue with the mental health therapy his lawyers say he’s been participating in. Majors faces a year in jail if found in violation of the terms, which also included a no contact order with his former girlfriend, Grace Jabbari.

Majors, dressed in all black and accompanied by his girlfriend, actor Meagan Good, declined to address the court and left the courthouse without speaking to reporters.

His lawyer, Priya Chaudhry, said the actor did not want to make any public statement

that Jabbari could use against him in the civil suit she’s filed against the actor.

Majors, she added, is “committed to growing as a person” and will complete any court-mandated programs “with an open heart” even as he maintains his innocence and plans to appeal.

“He’s lost his whole career,” Chaudhry said in court. “This has been the most challenging year of his life.”

But Jabbari, fighting back tears as she addressed the court, said Majors refuses to acknowledge his guilt and remains a danger to those around him.

“He’s not sorry. He has not accepted responsibility,” she said. “He will do this again and he will hurt other women. He believes he is above the law.”

Jabbari said Majors had made her believe the two

were in a loving relationship, but, in reality, he isolated her from the rest of the world and cut her off from family and friends.

“I was so emotionally dependent on him,” she said. “I became a different person around him—small, scared and vulnerable.”

Morgan Wallen arrested after allegedly throwing chair off of roof of 6-story bar



In this June 5, 2019, file photo, Morgan Wallen arrives at the CMT Music Awards on at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Country music singer Morgan Wallen has been arrested after police say he threw a chair off the rooftop of a newly opened six-story bar in downtown Nashville.

Wallen, 30, was booked into jail early Monday on three felony counts of reckless endangerment and one misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct, Metro Nashville Police tweeted.

The charges stem from a chair being thrown from the rooftop of Chief’s bar and landing on Broadway near two police officers.

An arrest affidavit says the chair landed about 3 feet (1 meter) from officers, who talked to witnesses and reviewed security footage. Witnesses told officers that they watched Wallen pick up a chair, throw it over the roof and laugh about it.

Wallen’s attorney, Worrick Robinson, confirmed the arrest late Sunday and said the singer was cooperating fully with authorities. He was released from custody, and has a court date scheduled May 3.

Wallen is one of the biggest names in contemporary country. His third studio album, 2023’s “One Thing at a Time,” was the most-consumed album in the U.S. last year. It spent 16 weeks at the top of the Billboard 200 in 2023 — which meant he held the top spot for 30% of the year, more time at No. 1 than any other album since Adele’s “21” dominated over a decade ago. It included several top 10 hits on the Billboard Hot 100: “Last Night,” “You Proof,” “Thinkin’ Bout Me,” “Thought You Should Know,” and “Don’t Think Jesus.”

Costner’s Western epic ‘Horizon, An American Saga’ will premiere at Cannes

Kevin Costner’s multi-episode epic “Horizon, An American Saga” will premiere at the Cannes Film Festival next month, festival organizers announced Monday.

The first chapter of “Horizon” will debut at the French film festival on May 19, giving the world its first glimpse of Costner’s ambitious Western epic. The first two parts of “Horizon” are set to open in quick succession this summer, with Warner Bros. releasing chapter one in theaters June 28 and the second installment on Aug. 16.

“It’s been 20 years since I’ve had the pleasure of be-



Kevin Costner arrives at the 81st Golden Globe Awards on Jan. 7, 2024, at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills, Calif.

ing on the Croisette,” Costner said in a statement. “I’ve been

waiting for the right time to return and I’m proud to say that

this time has come.”

“The French have always supported films and believed deeply in filmmaking,” added Costner. “Just as I believe deeply in my film.”

“Horizon,” which will screen out of competition at Cannes, is directed by Costner and stars him, Sienna Miller, Sam Worthington and Jena Malone.

The 77th Cannes Film Festival runs May 14-25. George Miller’s “Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga,” also from Warner Bros., was recently announced as another high-profile premiere at Cannes. The full lineup will be announced Thursday. (AP)

Quarter-century marriage is an intimacy-free zone

DEAR ABBY: I’m in a sexless 25-year marriage. It was not always this way, but any intimacy has been over for more than a decade. My wife’s libido has waned, which I understand. What she does do is continually bring up issues about me from years ago as if they were yesterday.

I have my faults, like lack of communication and shutting down, which I have objectively thought about a great deal and tried to make things right. I’m not violent, I don’t use drugs or abuse alcohol. She remains adamant in her distrust of me and punishes me by withholding all forms of intimacy.

We attended marriage counseling, where I listened to her and acknowledged my issues for redress. She, on the other hand, justifies her actions and behaviors. She has her own failings but doesn’t want to hear how much her actions have hurt me. She also didn’t listen to the counselor and will not hold herself accountable.

I feel so lonely. She thinks a lack of intimacy is fine for a marriage, and this is frustrating to me. I have brought this up to her numerous times, but she will not be moved. I could use your counsel on this.

LONELY MAN IN GEORGIA

DEAR LONELY MAN: You tried counseling; counseling failed. Lack of intimacy (of any kind) is not “fine” for a marriage. Call an attorney and set yourself free.

DEAR ABBY: During my 30s (I am now mid-70s), I did some nude modeling for several reputable photographers, which resulted in some lovely portraits. A few of them have been framed and hang on my bedroom wall.

My family members are aware of them, but they are very religious (which I am not), so I don’t know how to dispose of them. Should I try to sell them, and if so, how? Should I bequeath them to someone, or should they be left for my estate executor to deal with? What to do?

PORTRAITS IN THE SOUTH

DEAR PORTRAITS: Definitely discuss this with your executor well before the need arises. If the photographers are well-known, go online and find out if there’s a market for their work. Offer the portraits for sale and see if there is any interest. You could also bequeath them to an “open-minded” relative or friend. I wish you luck.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: In a response to “Ganged Up On” (Dec. 23), you stated that it is against the law to hit a child in California. It was in response to a woman whose mother-in-law spanked her grandchild. I was born in California and lived there more than 50 years, and I believe you misinterpreted the penal code.

It is not illegal to spank in California. It IS illegal to use excessive force, or to cause traumatic injury when doing it. I don’t

DEAR ABBY BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



personally believe that a child should be hit, but it is not “illegal.” In fact, corporal punishment, not abuse, is legal in every state in the U.S.

DENISE E. IN NEVADA

DEAR DENISE: Mea culpa. I stand corrected. You are not the only reader I heard from after printing that answer. Thank you for straightening me out about this.

■■■

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order “How to Be Popular.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



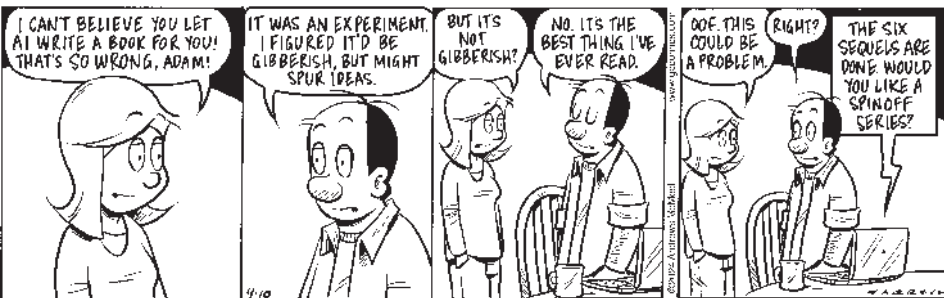
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



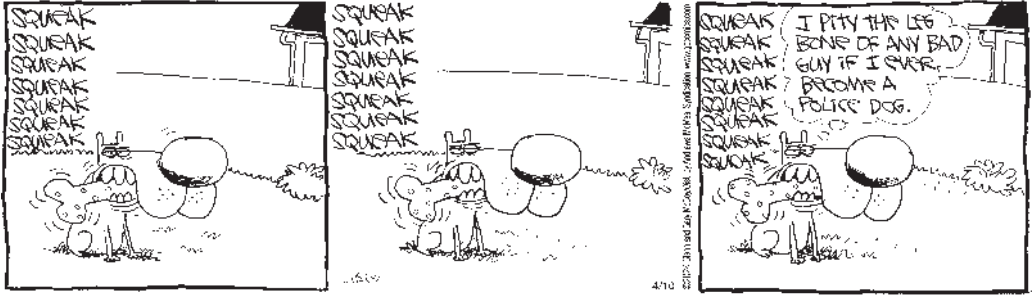
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Dark-ens 5 Squid squirt 8 Is in debt 12 Frank-furt's river 13 Transcript no. 14 Narc's measure 15 Sail over water 17 — uproar 18 Arizona resort 19 Benevo-lent 21 Harry Potter pal 22 Now, in a memo 23 Mandible 26 Method 28 Packing string 31 During 33 Bottom line 35 Each 36 "Water Lilies" painter 38 Dog's "dog" 40 Mound stat

DOWN 1 Scatters seeds 2 "Garfield" dog 3 Ward (off) 4 Deep passion 5 Tropical lizards 6 "Fresh Air" ailer 7 "The Trial" author 8 1945 Pacific battle site 9 Trachea 10 Airline to Tel Aviv 11 Electron-ics giant 16 Winter blanket 20 Follower (Suff.) 23 Bread spread 24 "I love," to Ovid 25 — Islands 27 "Uh-huh" 29 Neither here — there 30 Clean air org. 32 Pantheon members 34 Purplish hue 37 Texter's "Enough!" 39 Travel 42 Stitched 44 Equip anew 45 Com-manded 46 Actress Lena 48 Male of "Oppen-heimer" 49 Mom's mom 50 Village People hit 53 British verb ending

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-10

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Haley Joel Osment, 36; Mandy Moore, 40; Jamie Chung, 41; Charlie Hunnam, 44.

Happy Birthday: Set your sights on what you want to achieve this year, and don't stop until you are satisfied with the results. A lifestyle change is heading in your direction that will impact financial and professional outcomes. Take the path that lowers stress, feels comfortable and gives you time to spend with the ones you love doing things that bring you joy. Lower overhead; build security. Your numbers are 6, 19, 22, 24, 32, 39, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Work behind the scenes where you can get things done without interference. Avoid discussions that can lead to a no-win situation. Pay attention to your physical and financial well-being. Keep your thoughts to yourself. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): A change will offer insight into what's available to you. Gather information and connect with someone who has something to contribute that you want. Use your acquired knowledge to increase your profile and advance into a better position. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Get the lowdown before you move. Someone will offer false information to encourage you to take a chance. Don't lower your guard or believe everything you hear. Research, get the facts and figures, and walk away from anything that offers potential risk. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Consider what's available, then act. Be the one to set the wheels in motion. It's time and you are ready for a change. Embrace life, love and new be-

ginnings with vigor. Live in the moment and share with someone special. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Stay focused on your responsibilities. Take work seriously and do your part to ensure everything runs smoothly, and you'll gain respect and an unexpected opportunity. Give a little extra, network, use your charm and be willing to go over and above the call of duty. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Participate in something challenging. Take an energetic approach to getting things done and learning all you can to ensure you reach your destination on time and with the maximum amount of proof and influence to get your way. *****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Proceed with caution. You'll face opposition if you try to force your ideas on others. Use your charm, but stick to the truth. Embellishing a situation will backfire, leaving you with debt or a product you can't use. Personal growth and self-improvement are favored. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay attention to detail, the cost involved and how diverse you can be with your offer. Don't hold back; use your imagination and transform your skills and knowledge into a prosperous pursuit. Change is within reach; take advantage of what's available to you. ****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Use your time and space wisely. Look inward and figure out what you want to do next. Don't let others control your future. Figure out what you want, and don't be afraid to move forward alone. Think for yourself. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Concentrate on what's doable instead of looking for a quick fix. Practicality is your best bet when dealing with money, work and institutions. Take the path that leads to less stress and allows you the peace of mind to enjoy life. ***



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Stay focused on what you can control and achieve. Be realistic and recognize what's doable and what will save you time and money. Put a schedule in place to accommodate your plans and channel your energy into finishing what you start. Self-improvement is favored. ***



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep an open mind, but don't believe bogus claims. Do the research, get the facts and make decisions to help you get ahead. Connect with people who can contribute to your life and goals, leading to exciting and profitable prospects. ****



Birthday Baby: You are opportunity-driven, ambitious and quick. You are outgoing and helpful.

©: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. **: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ***: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ****: Aim high; start new projects. *****: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

7 8 1 5 4 3 6 1 9 5 8 6 1 2 8 9 7 5 6

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9 3 5 8 6 2 4 7 1 2 1 4 9 7 3 8 6 5 7 6 8 5 1 4 2 9 3 1 9 6 4 3 8 5 2 7 8 2 3 7 9 5 6 1 4 4 5 7 6 2 1 9 3 8 6 8 9 3 5 7 1 4 2 5 7 2 1 4 6 3 8 9 3 4 1 2 8 9 7 5 6

Difficulty: ***

4/10

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

APPLYING FOR A MORTGAGE

Solution: 6 letters

F L O A T I N G B T C F N R Q I A E S C R O W R L I E U R N G L N T A X O O X G C A E O A E B O D N P S E R E L P V K N L A O D E E D A I I O P A T C U I L R D R M V F N S R S N I D R L O A N E Y E A I O E E N E A A T N U O M A L N V T M G H V B U Y D O W N P G E A Y E C N A L A B O R R O W E R A E S T I M A T E E F F O Y A P M E Q U I T Y T Y P E S E T N I E S U O H R E U L A V A I W R F T C A R T S B A N K R O O P P R O P E R T Y L H T N O M D

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STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

UConn beats Purdue for second straight NCAA title



G L E N - DALE, Ariz. (AP) — A basketball beatdown. A coaching clinic. A double-digit domination.

Take one guess who finished off a romp through college basketball again. You bet, it's UConn—a program built to win now, and often, and by a lot every time the Huskies take the court.

UConn delivered the latest of its suffocating hoops performances Monday night, smothering Purdue for a 75-60 victory to become the first team since 2007 to capture back-to-back national championships.

Tristen Newton scored 20 points for the Huskies, who won their 12th straight March Madness game—not a single one of them decided by fewer than 13 points.

UConn was efficient on offense but won this with defense. The Huskies (37-3) limited the country's second-best 3-point shooting team to a mere seven shots behind the arc and only a single make, while happily allowing 7-foot-4 AP Player of the Year Zach Edey to go for 37 points on 25 shot attempts.

UConn won its sixth overall title and joined the 2006-07 Florida Gators and the 1991-92 Duke Blue Devils as just the third team to repeat since John Wooden's UCLA dynasty of the 1960s and '70s.

"Can't even wrap your mind around it," coach Dan Hurley said. "You just know how hard this tournament is."

But is it?

The 2024 Huskies are the sixth team to win all six tournament games by double-digit margins. They won those games by a grand total of 140 points, blowing past the 1996 Kentucky team, which won its six by 129.

In a matchup of two top seeds, they wore down the Boilermakers (34-5), who made it this far a year after becoming just the second No. 1 seed in the history of March Madness to fall in the first round. But Purdue left the same way it came—still looking for the program's first NCAA title.

In what was supposed to be a free-for-all in this new age of the transfer portal and name, image and likeness deals, UConn has figured out how to dominate.

"We just recruit really talented NBA players that are willing to not make it about themselves, and to be part of a winning group, to go for all the championships," Hurley said.

Cam Spencer, a transfer from Rutgers, Stephon Castle, a blue-chip freshman, and Alex Karaban, a sophomore



UConn players celebrate as time expires during the second half of the NCAA college Final Four championship basketball game against Purdue, Monday, April 8, 2024, in Glendale, Ariz.

Purdue's Zach Edey laid it all out in the NCAA title game

GLENDAL, Ariz. (AP)—Zach Edey spent all season as the dominant force at the heart of Purdue's push for never-before-reached heights.

His space-eating presence, his back-to-the-basket offense, his ability to use length to score over defenders — he used it all to bring the Boilermakers within 40 minutes of their first national title. But the 7-foot-4 star and two-time Associated Press national player of the year just couldn't push the Boilermakers past a dominant UConn team on its own march to history.

Edey finished with 37 points, 10 rebounds and two blocks in Monday night's 75-60 loss to the Huskies, who became the first repeat men's champion in 17 years.

He battled the entire way, both in an individual matchup against a strong post presence in the 7-2 Donovan Clingan as well as constant defensive attention and frequent rotating double-team help. And he kept running the court to add on buckets in the fleeting hope of a miracle, even as UConn had turned this matchup into another double-digit win.

But he largely fought this one single-handedly, with only Braden Smith (12 points) reaching double figures with him.

By the end, Edey could only walk somberly off the court and start the long walk to the locker room as the Huskies celebrated Monday night's win. He paused



Purdue center Zach Edey dunks over UConn center Donovan Clingan, left, during the first half of the NCAA college Final Four championship basketball game, Monday, April 8, 2024, in Glendale, Ariz.

to shake a few hands, then stretched out his left arm to give a soft high-five to a fan in the stands above him.

From there, it was as though he was battling to keep his composure. He put both hands on his head as he walked, then quickly put them back at his sides. As he drew closer to the locker-room doors, he clutched the front of his jersey with his right fist.

And when he stepped through them, he pulled the front of his jersey up over his face as he disappeared into the locker room.

This was hardly the ending he had envisioned, especially after getting Purdue to its first trip to the title game since its only other appearance: a loss to John Wooden and UCLA in 1969.

Edey entered the game averaging a national-best 24.9 points while ranking second

with 12.2 rebounds, and he also ranked among the national leaders in shooting percentage (.625) and blocks (2.16).

He got off to a fast start Monday against Clingan, making 7 of 9 shots for 16 points in the first 14 minutes. He also showed a touch of feistiness with UConn's Dan Hurley at one point, trading words with the coach after he had come toward the middle of the court to complain during a timeout about a lack of an illegal-screen call on Edey.

But Clingan and backup Samson Johnson began having more success holding their ground against Edey's array of hook shots and turnarounds, and Edey improbably went without a basket from the 5:47 mark of the first half until getting a score on a goaltending call with 13:39 left.

By then, with Purdue getting little production from its

backcourt, the Boilermakers had found themselves down 47-38 and fighting uphill against a team that looked like the title favorite from the moment the brackets were announced.

Edey kept running the floor and scrapping, scoring multiple baskets late in a desperate attempt to extend the game.

Finally, coach Matt Painter had seen enough, pulling Edey a final time with 36 seconds left and UConn up 15. He gave a firm pat on the back to Edey, who walked to the bench to acknowledge the rest of his teammates.

From there, he could only stand on the edge of the court as the final seconds ticked away in Purdue's winningest season, leaving him with a perfect view of UConn's players running to midcourt to mob each other as the confetti fell from above.

from last year's team, spent the night guarding the 3-point line and making life miserable for Purdue's guards.

"They just made a decision—we can defend the perimeter, and we can take this away from you, you're going to get the ball to your best player, he'll be 1-on-1, and that's that," Purdue coach Matt Painter said. "They were going to live with that."

This was only the second time this season Purdue didn't put up 10 3-point attempts, and how 'bout this final score: Edey 37, the rest of the Boilermakers 23.

How serious was Hurley about defending the perimeter? When Braden Smith wiggled loose for a semi-open look to make Purdue's first 3 of the game with 2:17 left in the first half, the coach bolted onto the floor and called timeout.

And that was that from behind the arc.

With his Xs-and-Os masterpiece, Hurley joins former Florida coach Billy Donovan in the back-to-back club, and is in company with Bill Self and Rick Pitino as only the third active coach with two championships.

Nobody will say the UConn coach didn't work for this one. In the first half, he begged with, swore at generally berated the refs about over-the-backs, elbows and hip checks that weren't called.

Once, when that didn't work after Edey set a hard (and probably legal) pick against Castle, Hurley started in on Edey himself as the center walked toward the Purdue bench for a timeout.

But the coach's best work came in whatever hotel room he used to draw up the game plan. How did he deliver it to the Huskies?

"The message was that we were the best team in the country," Hurley said. "Purdue was clearly the second-best team in the country. Play to our identity, be who we've been the whole year, and we'll be champions."

It's no slight on Edey, who battled gamely, finishing with 10 rebounds to record his 30th double-double of the season. But this game proved the number crunchers right. UConn let Edey back in and back down all night on 7-2 Donovan Clingan, giving up difficult 2s in the post in exchange for any 3s.

Meanwhile, as the big fella started wearing down, the Huskies took the ball right at him. Castle finished with 15 points and both Spencer and Clingan had 11. UConn made a modest six 3-pointers, which was right at its season average.

Yankees, Cortes shut out woeful Marlins, 7-0



**N E W
Y O R K**
(AP)—Juan

Soto and Anthony Volpe each hit a three-run homer in the fourth inning off Jesús Luzardo, and the New York Yankees romped over the Miami Marlins 7-0 on Monday night.

Nelson Cortes (1-1), pitching against his hometown team for the first time, allowed two hits, struck out six and walked none over eight innings. Cortes had his longest outing since May 2022 and the longest by a Yankees starter this year. After his 2023 season was cut short by a shoulder injury, Cortes won for the first time since May 30.

Josh Maciejewski, a 28-year-old left-hander, got three groundouts on four pitches in his major league debut as Miami was shut out for the first time this year.

GUARDIANS 4, WHITE SOX 0

CLEVELAND (AP)—José Ramírez hit a two-run homer—his 100th at Progressive Field—and Cleveland followed the total solar eclipse by winning first-year manager Stephen Vogt's home debut, 4-0 over the Chicago White Sox on Monday.

It was Ramírez's 174th homer, moving him past Al Rosen for the most by a third baseman in Cleveland history.

Triston McKenzie (1-1) pitched 5 2/3 innings for Cleveland, off to a surprising start and its best since 2011. The right-hander combined with four relievers on a four-hitter.

The White Sox dropped their fifth straight to fall to 1-9. They were shut for the fourth time and have scored an MLB-low 16 runs, the club's fewest in 10 games since 1968.

PIRATES 7, TIGERS 4

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Bryan Reynolds hit his 100th career home run, Connor Joe and Jared Triolo both had two hits and two RBIs and Pittsburgh beat Detroit.

Joey Bart also drove in two runs for the Pirates as Pittsburgh improved to 9-2, the best record in the National League.

Mitch Keller (1-1) allowed two runs on five hits with three walks and nine strikeouts to earn his first win of the season. The right-handed Keller has worked at least five innings in 34 straight starts, the longest active streak in the majors.

Colt Keith and Matt Vierling had two hits and each drove in a run for the Tigers. Riley Greene added an RBI double in the ninth.

REDS 10, BREWERS 8

CINCINNATI (AP)—Elly De La Cruz hit his first two homers of the season, a massive 450-foot solo drive and a sinking liner that turned into his first



New York Yankees' Anthony Volpe hits a home run against the Miami Marlins during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Monday, April 8, 2024 in New York.

career inside-the-park drive, and Cincinnati held off Milwaukee.

De La Cruz had three hits and scored four times. Will Benson also homered for the Reds, and Spencer Steer had two RBIs.

The Reds led 8-0 after four innings and 9-3 after five. And the Brewers nearly rallied for an improbable win.

Milwaukee's Brice Turang hit a two-run homer in the fifth and a two-run double in the sixth. Christian Yelich's two-run shot in the seventh—his fourth homer of the season—got the Brewers within one.

DODGERS 4, TWINS 2

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Shohei Ohtani had two doubles and a home run—his third in five games—to power Los Angeles past Minnesota.

James Outman hit the go-ahead homer in the seventh inning and Freddie Freeman and Will Smith drove in runs to fuel another smooth victory for Dodgers newcomer James Paxton (2-0).

Manny Margot hit a two-run homer off his former team to give the Twins a third-inning lead, but the loaded Dodgers lineup was too much for a depleted bullpen after starter Bailey Ober deftly worked to depart with one run allowed in five innings.

BLUE JAYS 5, MARINERS 2

TORONTO (AP)—José Berrios pitched 6 2/3 shutout innings, Davis Schneider hit a two-run single and Toronto won their home opener, beating Seattle.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. had two hits and drove in a run as

the Blue Jays won before a sell-out crowd of 40,069 at their renovated stadium. The lower level of seats and both clubhouses were rebuilt over the offseason.

Berrios (2-0) allowed four hits, all singles, including three from Seattle's Ty France. The right-hander walked one and matched a season-high by striking out six.

Mariners right-hander Luis Castillo (0-3) lost for the third time in three starts this season, allowing four runs and nine hits in five innings. Castillo's earned run average rose from 6.75 to 6.89.

France went 3 for 4 after being activated off the paternity list before the game.

ASTROS 10, RANGERS 5

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Yordan Alvarez homered for the second game in a row, among his three hits as Houston rallied from an early deficit to beat Texas after Astros scheduled starter Framber Valdez was scratched because of elbow soreness.

No. 9 batter Victor Caratini added a three-run homer as the Astros earned a split in the four-game series that was the first this season between the AL West rivals.

Seth Martinez (1-0) worked 3 2/3 scoreless innings in relief as the first of four pitchers after Blair Henley retired only one of the nine batters he faced. Henley's major league debut starting in place of Valdez, who returned to Houston to be evaluated by team doctors.

PHILLIES 5, CARDINALS 3, 10 INNINGS

ST. LOUIS (AP)—Alec

Bohm had an RBI double in the 10th inning and Philadelphia beat St. Louis.

Bohm's hit off Ryan Helsley (1-1) drove in automatic runner Cristian Pache, and Bryson Stott followed with a sacrifice fly for the insurance run as the Phillies won for the third time in their last four games.

Gregory Soto got the last three outs for his first save.

The Cardinals rallied for two runs in the bottom of the ninth off Jeff Hoffman (1-0) to tie it. Jordan Walker drove in the first run with a sacrifice fly and Mason Winn's two-out single tied it 3-all.

The rally spoiled the second straight scoreless start for Phillies start Spencer Turnbull, who allowed just two hits in six innings while striking out six.

Cardinals starter Miles Mikolas allowed two runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings.

ROCKIES 7, DIAMONDBACKS 5

DENVER (AP)—Ryan McMahon atoned for a costly error with three hits, Charlie Blackmon homered and tripled, and Colorado beat Arizona to deny Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo his 500th career win.

Colorado starter Kyle Freeland grinded through five innings for his longest outing of the season and Peter Lambert (2-0) pitched two innings of relief to earn the win. Jake Bird retired Eugenio Suarez with a bases-loaded fly to right to end the game and earn his first save after the Diamondbacks pushed across a run against Nick Mears.

The Diamondbacks scored four times in the fourth, two on a two-out error at third by Mc-

Mahon. Freeland, whose deepest outing this season coming in was 3 1/3 innings, punctuated the end of the inning by fielding a comebacker and throwing a fastball to Elehuris Montero at first for the final out.

ANGELS 7, RAYS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mike Trout hit his fifth homer and added an RBI triple, and Tyler Anderson pitched seven scoreless innings of four-hit ball in Los Angeles' victory over the Tampa Bay.

Taylor Ward had three hits and drove in three runs for the Angels, who have won six of eight since getting blown out in their first two games of the season. Anthony Rendon also had three hits and scored three runs.

Zach Eflin yielded five runs on nine hits over five innings on his 30th birthday. The Rays have dropped to 2-2 on their road trip. Tampa Bay's opening day starter struck out five, but gave up four two-out hits and allowed plenty of hard contact.

METS 8, BRAVES 7

ATLANTA (AP)—DJ Stewart hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to give New York the lead, Brandon Nimmo drove in five runs with four hits, including two homers, and the Mets held on to beat Atlanta.

The Mets, who have won four of five, snapped Atlanta's three-game winning streak on the night Atlanta celebrated the 50-year anniversary of Hank Aaron's record-breaking 715th homer.

Marcell Ozuna hit his fifth homer of the season for the Braves, matching Mookie Betts and Tyler O'Neill for the

most in the majors.

Pierce Johnson (2-1) gave up a single to Brett Baty with one out in the eighth before Stewart's first homer of the season cleared the center field wall, snapping a 5-all tie.

Mets right-hander Jorge López gave up a double to Matt Olson to open the ninth. Ozuna advanced Olson to third with a drive that Jeff McNeil caught at the left-field wall. Olson scored on a single to right field by Michael Harris II, trimming the New York lead to 8-7.

Orlando Arcia popped out and López earned his first save when Travis d'Arnaud lined out to right field.

PADRES 9, CUBS 8

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Fernando Tatis Jr. hit a go-ahead, two-run home run with two outs in the eighth, two innings after the Padres scored seven runs, and San Diego stunned Chicago.

Tatis watched the ball soar into the left field seats, flipped his bat and pumped his fists after hitting his fourth of the year. Tatis was wearing custom cleats honoring the late Hall of Famer Tony Gwynn. Rookie Jackson Merrill was aboard on a leadoff walk off Adbert Alzolay (1-1).

Wandy Peralta (1-0) got the win and Robert Suarez the save, his fourth.

Cubs right-hander Javier Assad, who grew up across the border in Tijuana, took a two-hit shutout and an 8-0 lead into the sixth before the Padres pulled within a run in the sixth that was highlighted by two-run homers by Jake Cronenworth and Xander Bogaerts. The Padres had five hits, a walk and an error that inning.

NATIONALS 8, GIANTS 1

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Lane Thomas drove in three runs and Washington spoiled Blake Snell's San Francisco debut.

Snell, a two-time Cy Young Award winner, including last season with San Diego, agreed to a \$62 million, two-year contract March 18. He had been throwing at extended spring training in Scottsdale, Arizona, to build up his arm strength.

The left-hander received a warm ovation when he emerged from the dugout and walked out to the center-field bullpen to begin his warmup throws.

Staked to a 1-0 lead on LaMonte Wade Jr.'s RBI double in the first, Snell (0-1) issued consecutive one-out walks in the second. Trey Lipscomb and Luis García Jr. then hit back-to-back RBI singles, and Lipscomb scored as part of a double steal.

Trevor Williams (2-0) allowed one run and three hits over five innings for Washington.

Chamber Golf Tournament tees up scholarships for success



Join us for an unforgettable golfing experience for the Saipan

Chamber of Commerce Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament. Secure your spot by submitting your registration today. Act fast—the deadline is fast approaching on April 17, 2024, at 5pm. Visit us at the Marianas Business Plaza, Second Floor, Suite 201-A.

The tournament will kick off with a showtime at 6am, followed by a shotgun start at 7am on Saturday, April 27, 2024 followed by a player refreshment banquet. The registration fee for each team is \$260 and \$30 for optional play per team member. Players will have the opportunity to purchase tickets for the raffle prizes during registration and throughout the tournament.

For the past 15 years, the Chamber has been able to support our local youth groups by providing financial assistance to pursue higher education at our



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Joe "Kamikaze" S. Camacho, right, and Joe C. Sasamoto won the low gross competition of the 14th Annual Saipan Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament last year at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

local post-secondary institutes such as the Northern Marianas College and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

"We have been able to assist our local youth groups with over \$180,000 in scholarship funds within the past 15 years which has been made possible by our amazing Chamber members, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and Chamber team.

We are excited to reach our goal this year of continued support for our local youth. Please join us as we champion higher education all while promoting community camaraderie and supporting local businesses," said Chamber executive director Kimberly C. Camacho.

On behalf of the Chamber membership and board of directors, she also extended

their sincerest gratitude to all their sponsors for their generosity and commitment to our shared mission.

"Your support not only strengthens our tournament but also reinforces our collective community efforts to support our future leaders of the CNMI. Thank you to all our sponsors."

Namely the sponsors are the following—Hole-in-one: Hafa

Adai Rent-a-Car/Joeten Motors, Island Training Solutions, Shirley Sablan/Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, TurnKey Solutions, Top Shelf Wine & Spirits; Gold Sponsors: TakeCare Insurance Inc. and TSL Foundation; Silver Sponsors: Assurance Brokers, Inc. (Saipan) dba AB Risk Solutions, Bank of Guam; Bronze Sponsors: Century Insurance Company, First Hawaiian Bank, KKMP, KWAU, Latte Built Fitness, Mobil Oil Mariana Islands, Inc., Pacific Health Inc. dba PHI Pharmacy, Saipan Tribune; Event Sponsors: AP Group LLC, Cargo Express (Saipan) Inc., Herman's Bakery, Law Office of Stephen Nutting, LSG Lufthansa Services, Inc. Saipan, Marianas Business Journal, Marianas Business Plaza, LLC, *Marianas Variety*, Northern Marianas College, Northern Marianas Technical Institute, Saipan Lau Lau Development, Inc., Saipan Shipping Company, Inc.; Raffle Sponsors: Borderline & Allstar,

Caravan of Food, Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan, D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd., Godfather's Bar & Restaurant, IT&E, Let's Go Tour Company, Micronesia Resort Inc. (MRI), MP Holdings, Naked Fish Bar & Grill, and Union of Professionals Corp.

For more information on the tournament or to either register as a player or become a sponsor or donor, contact the Chamber at (670) 234-7150 or via email at contactus@saipan-chamber.org

The Chamber is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber member, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call (670) 234-7150, or visit the 2nd Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A). (PR)

5th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas reset for June 1



Youth fishing nonprofit organization

Tasi To Table announced that its student member-led fishing derby, the 5th Annual Wahoo in the Marianas, is set for June 1, 2024, from 6am to 5pm at the Smiling Cove Marina.

Registration will take place on May 31, 2024 from 4pm to 6pm at the Smiling Cove Marina. Registration fees for each participating vessel include \$200 for each vessel, consist-

ing of one captain and two anglers, with \$30 for each additional angler.

This derby, which was originally scheduled for March 23, 2024, had to be postponed due to high winds and rough waters forecasted during that weekend. Rescheduling the derby was a challenge for TTT, given that April and May this year are both eventful months.

"TTT's officers met recently to schedule and agree on a new date for the WIM. It was a difficult decision to push it to June, but we had to since April

and May are going to be a busy couple of months for TTT and other community organizations as well," said TTT president Gene Weaver.

"During these two months we're looking at a fishing derby from another organization; walkathon; marathon; golf tournament; fiesta; and upcoming high school proms and graduations, which will affect how many student volunteers we will have during the derby. TTT's also gearing up for our first-ever veterans-focused fishing derby in May. Because

of all these factors, we decided to hold the derby in June," Weaver continued.

Tasi To Table thanks everyone for their patience and understanding. Follow Tasi To Table @tasitotable on Facebook and Instagram for the latest updates.

The Wahoo in the Marianas is an annual fishing derby held for TTT's students, by TTT's students. For this derby, solicitations, marketing, and event planning are managed by TTT's student members, and money raised through the derby goes directly towards TTT's student program. (PR)

NMI

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the late afternoon.

Both teams were fired up and NMI had nothing but vengeance on their mind. NMI put up good plays which they finally got to convert into goals, and by the second half, tied it up, 1-1 from a penalty kick by Jannah Casarino.

Victory and pride hung in the balance as both teams duked it out on the pitch, with screams of support enshrouding the soccer center. Then, victory was ever closer for NMI women as Pia Ngewakl shot past Guam's goalie in the 85th minute for a 2-1 game.

In a nail-biter finale, three minutes of extra time provided both teams with extra leverage. Who took advantage and came out on top? It was Guam as India Sheppard kicked a clutch goal with mere seconds to spare, and the Guam bench and supporters exploded into cheers as they salvaged the game with a 2-2 draw.

With Ngewakl and Casarino on the NMI team were Deseha

Mendiola, Christina Atalig, Dianne Pablo, Khristelle Itaas, Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez, Bernadette Horey, Sophia Quintos, Tamia Kileleman-Hix, Gabrielle Race, Julie Chavez, Aubrey Castro, Rizza Relucio, Raven Anderson, Toremy Diaz, Megan Elayda, Tyana Kileleman-Hix, Joselyn Atalig, Kelsey McClellan.

Guam's roster, including Cruz, Dahilig, and Sheppard, were Ha'ani Byerly and Kiarra Hutcherson, Sarah Benavente, Marlena Connelley, Hannah Cruz, Kalle Damian, Erlissa Delfin, Maya Iriarte, Anna Jones, Monica Marquez, Analea Meno, Anjelica Perez, Loyola Phillip, Richelle Ragadio, Sophia San Agustin, Yae Kawauchi, and Dolores San Gil.

Head coach for Guam women's team, Kristin Thompson said after the game that they were super excited to come out and compete. "It's always such a rivalry, we love it. We love when Saipan comes and plays us, so yeah, we're excited to come out."

She said of her girls, "We've been preparing, the girls have

been really hungry and wanting it, so we've been training hard for the last like two and a half months, so we're happy with the results."

With the clutch goal at the last second to end in a draw, Thompson said she always tells her girls to play until the last second. "That's just heart and wanting to get it in the back of the net," she said. She then thanked the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association for having them and for the beautiful accommodation.

As for the captain of the Guam women's team, Ariya Cruz, she said they came out and got the result that they wanted. "We have a lot of new girls that have been playing with us and training with us, so it's good to have this team out here—all homegrown and training leading up to this, and getting the result that we wanted," she said. She added that they look forward to more competitions against the NMI in the future.

NMI head coach Mae Ito, for her part, said, "The intense competition between NMI

and Guam offers players and teams a valuable opportunity to gauge their skills at an international level. This healthy rivalry serves as motivation for players to continuously strive for excellence and play with pride for NMI."

She added that the NMI women's team showed resilience and adaptability against Guam.

"While the results may not have been as desired, these games served as a valuable reminder that progress is not always linear and that competition is constantly evolving, as demonstrated by Guam's performance. These friendlies serve as valuable opportunities to assess individual skills and tactical understanding within the team, essential for ongoing development. With a positive mindset and continued dedication, the team is poised to learn from these experiences and grow stronger as they prepare for upcoming tournaments and friendlies. The journey ahead is challenging, but the team remains focused on rising to the occasion," she said.

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Taher Shakir, 6-0, 6-0. The NMI's Nason Wessel then put up a good fight against FSM's Dontrick Daniel, 6-4, 6-2. The NMI's Henry Choi also bagged a win as he beat Guam's Oliver Schaumann, 6-2, 6-0.

A total of 25 of the islands'

top 16-and-under tennis players are challenging the best from Guam, Palau, Nauru, and FSM during the six-day tourney organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association and funded by the Oceania Tennis Federation and International Tennis Federation.

Matches will be played until Saturday, April 13.

FLOYD

From page 16

and skills. Sensei Banez has so much to teach and I'm very eager to learn."

For Ada's part, he said it was a great experience to go head-to-head with people of a similar fighting style. "Getting third this year was due to the best of my abilities and I will sharpen my skills and further my practice," said the 29-year-old.

Banez said of his competitors, "I'm very happy. It's an honor for everyone who's been working hard for this successful effort of their competition. They really did their job... as I said, we need

to work harder here during training so that it's easier to fight in the competition."

As for back-to-back championships, Banez said "It's not surprising because that was the plan."

"I am so proud of the team that they did a good job in bringing the championship back here in Saipan. Thank you for your support," said Banez.

The tournament drew karate practitioners from the CNMI, the Philippines, Mongolia, and four Guam-based gyms.

The next competition for CNMI martial artists is this July in Japan for the 2024 Japan International Dream Festival Karate Championship.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan karate studio Kyokushinkai Karate Watanabe Dojo's yellow belt Spencer Floyd, right, and green belt Daniel Chlarson Ada pose for a photo during the World Karate Organization Shinkyokushinkai 2024 Guam Full Contact Karate Championship last Saturday at iLearn Academy Charter School in Dededo, Guam.



UConn beats Purdue for second straight NCAA title.
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Chamber Golf Tournament tees up scholarships for success.
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16 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

No. 1 seeds Anne, Si Woo prevail on Day 2

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CNMI's No. 1 seeds Anne Lee and Si Woo Lee were victorious over their foes on Day 2 of the North Pacific Regional Championships yesterday at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts.



Anne showed no mercy to Nauru's Julyna Quadina in the girls 14 yesterday afternoon at the AMP tennis courts after going through unanswered sets, 6-0, 6-0.

Multiple strong serves and returns caused Quidana to hit balls out of bounds and give Anne the advantage throughout the match. Anne continued to make it rain points on a hot afternoon and eventually secured the W.

Meanwhile, Si Woo faced off against teammate Ki Won Lee and won, 6-0, 6-2, in the boys 14.

In other results for NMI netters, Matthew Hwang routed Guam's Malachi O'Brien, 6-2, 6-1, in the boys 14 division, and teammate Jihun Park made



LEIGH GASES
NMI's No. 1 seed in the girls 14 division, Anne Lee, hits a return during her matchup against Nauru's Julyna Quadina on Day 2 of the North Pacific Regional Championships at the American Memorial Park tennis courts yesterday.

light work of Federated States of Micronesia's Prinze Skilling, 6-1, 6-3.

NMI's Vivian Lee went on to pummel Nauru's Shaneva Stephen, 6-1, 6-1 in the girls 14 division. In the last game of the day, NMI's Lina Tsukagoshi defeated Nauru's Ester Itaia, 6-3, 6-4.

In the girls 16 division, NMI's Hoo Wang edged compatriot Anna Kwon,

6-0, 6-3. Then, NMI's Irin Chung blanked Guam's Chloe Villafuerte, 6-0, 6-0, with NMI's Hannah Chae mirroring her with a 6-0, 6-0 win over FSM's Aja Skilling. Chae also won over Villafuerte, 6-0, 6-1 later in the day.

The NMI's June Yu, in the boys 16 division, also silenced teammate

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Floyd, Ada bag medals in 2024 Guam Full Contact Karate Champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER



Martial artist Spencer Floyd bagged a gold medal in the senior men's division of the World Karate Organization Shinkyokushinkai 2024 Guam Full Contact Karate Championship last Saturday at iLearn Academy Charter School in Dededo, Guam.

It's back-to-back championships for Saipan's karate studio Kyokushinkai Karate Watanabe Dojo owned by black-belt sensei Danny Banez, as last year, Jerry Diaz won gold.

Along with yellow belt Floyd in the competition was green belt Daniel Chlarson Ada who bagged bronze in the adult men division.

Silver in the senior division went to Jonathan Basto, while bronze was Arthur Clark. In the adult men's division, gold was won by Temuulen Bayarmagnai, and silver went to John Sacayan.

Both Ada and Floyd were coached



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Daniel Chlarson Ada, left, and Spencer Floyd pose for a photo with their coach Eric Atalig, right, and Guam's Chris Biolchino, Shinkyokushinkai Guam's sensei, during the World Karate Organization Shinkyokushinkai 2024 Guam Full Contact Karate Championship last Saturday at iLearn Academy Charter School in Dededo, Guam.

by brown belt Eric Atalig, who flew with them to Guam.

Floyd said the competition was fierce. "Each of my opponents were tough and experienced in tournament style fighting. I was elated winning first place in my division. I've been practicing Kyokushin karate since July of last year and wanted to test myself in competition," he said.

The 47-year-old air traffic controller

at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport then thanked Banez, his coach Atalig, Diaz, Ada, and the rest of my dojo mates at the CNMI martial arts academy.

"They were instrumental in pushing me physically and mentally," he said. "Even though I won first place in my division, I can't wait until I return to the dojo to further hone my abilities

See FLOYD on Page 15

NMI women drop game, draws against Guam

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI women's national football team players called up for the 2024 Marianas Friendlies tourney suffered a loss and a last-second draw against rival Guam last weekend at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Guam blanked the NMI team, 3-0, last Saturday, and survived a defeat after a last-second goal tied up the game for a 2-2 draw last Sunday.

The NMI and Guam's age-old rivalry spilled onto the pitch during those two days and it showed with the heart and passion that seeped through their plays.

Tough back-and-forth in the first half resulted in nothing but goose

eggs on the scoreboard until the 22nd minute when Guam's Anjelica Perez nipped the net for a 1-0 lead. Guam went on to attack the NMI's defenses and it paid off just over 10 minutes later with a goal from Giselle Dahilig, and quickly, it was 2-0.

NMI's chances at the goal slimmed with each passing minute, but they managed to hold them off at just two points at the end of the first half. The second half was quiet as NMI tried to catch Guam off guard, and as Guam tried to extend their lead.

However, toward the end, Guam added another goal to make it 3-0 as time passed without retaliation from NMI and they conceded the game.

In the final matchup on Sunday, the women had the pitch first in

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NMIFA

Guam's Marlana Connelley and NMI's Bernadette Horey scramble for the ball during their match in the 2024 Marianas Friendlies last weekend at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.